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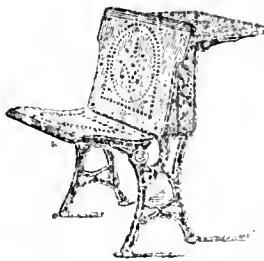












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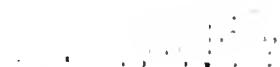
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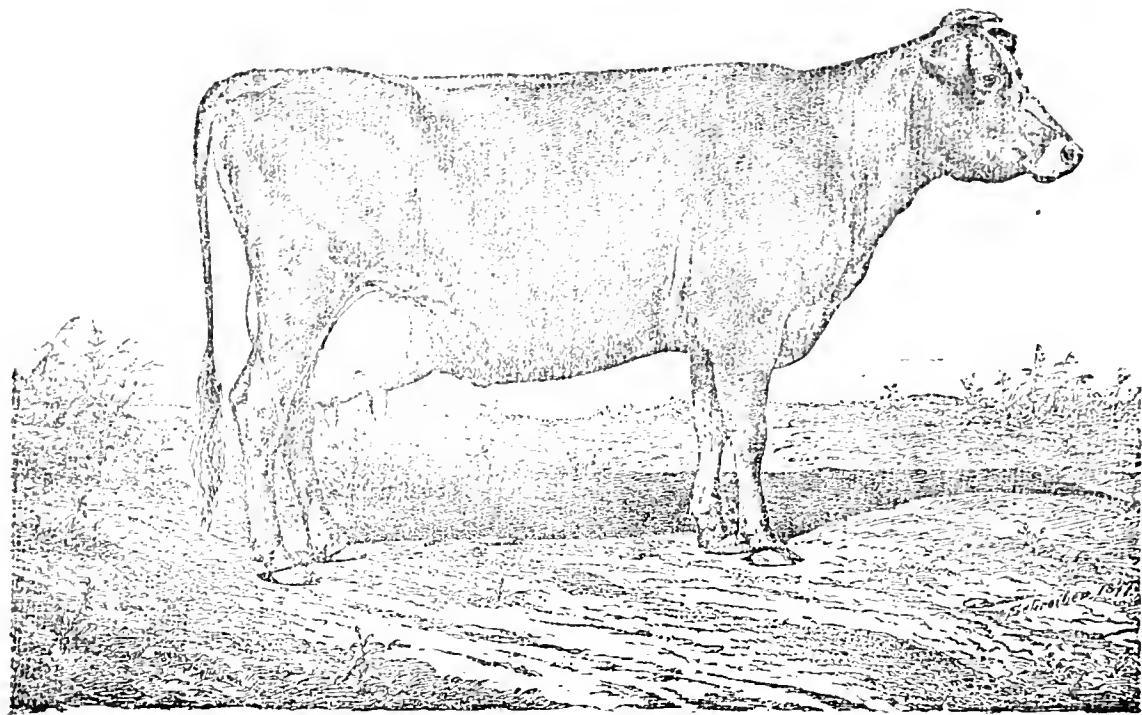
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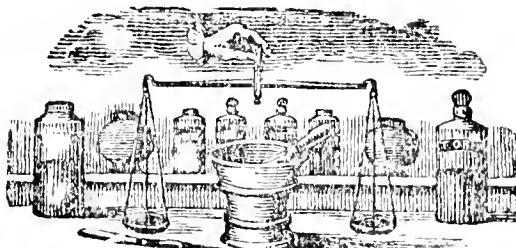
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Cheaper than anywhere else in town.

**ALL KINDS OF DRUGS AND SUNDRIES.**

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Offers for sale at the postoffice store in Minneota, a large and carefully-selected stock of

**GENERAL MERCHANDISE,**

And is confident that he can make it pay all to trade with him. Having been in trade here since the first settlement of the town, he thoroughly understands the trade wants of the community, and keeps a stock that all can satisfy themselves from. Go and see him.

# To the Farmers Who Trade at Minneota.

OLE O. BRENNNA, JR.

Is constantly adding to his stock, and now has nearly everything you want in  
the line of

Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, No-  
tions, Clothing and Crockery.

All bought cheap, and for sale at the lowest living profit. Try his store, and  
you will continue to trade with him.

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# The Guion Steamship Line.

I have secured the agency of this best of lines, and can now furnish all with

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On all the principal parts of Europe at the very lowest rates.

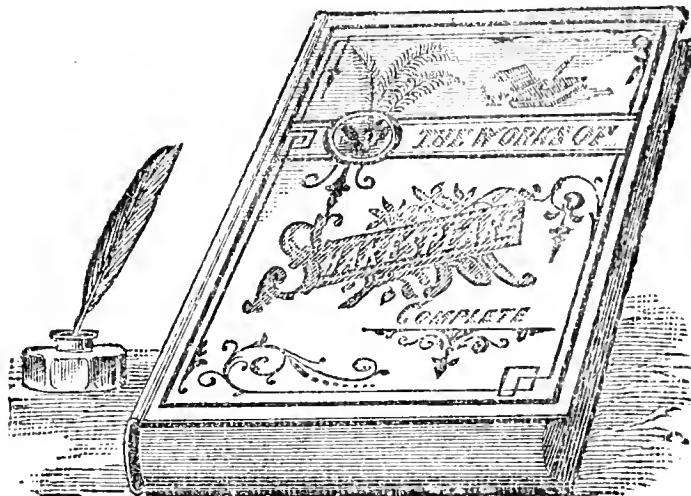
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Always has a large assortment  
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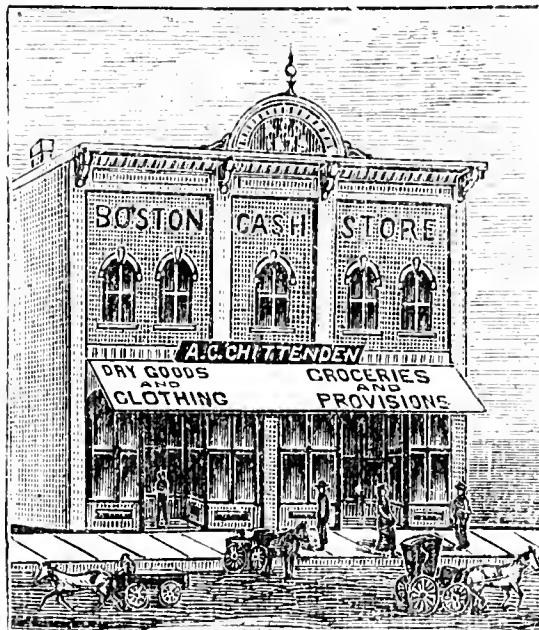
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Repairing of watches, clocks  
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The Pioneer Store of Marshall is  
**THE BOSTON CASH STORE.**

Always known for square dealing,  
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When they are forced on the market, for the simple reason that we do a cash business at the least possible margin of profit, which keeps the ball rolling.

We carry a large assortment of

**Clothing, Men's Furnishing Goods, Hats & Caps.**

—OUR STOCK OF—

**DRY GOODS AND NOTIONS**

**IS UNSURPASSED.**

A large line of Boots and Shoes, on which we save our patrons 25 per cent.

spring stock for 1884 was bought cheap. Always go to the Boston Store to save money.

Respectfully,

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## HISTORY OF LYON COUNTY.

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In this unpretentious work we shall not attempt to connect Lyon County historically with the Garden of Eden or trace back its geographical relations farther than the history of the state which it ornaments.

Prior to 1866 the territory which is now embraced by this and several other counties, was a part of Blue Earth county. At the date above mentioned the wild western portion of Blue Earth became Brown county. In 1857, Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone, Nobles and Jackson were taken out of Brown, and in 1865 Redwood county was taken from Brown. The territory thus taken embraced what is now Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Lyon, Lincoln and Redwood. In 1869 Lyon county was subtracted from Redwood. It then also embraced Lincoln county which was taken from Lyon in 1873.

Two Indian reservations had been established within the territory of Redwood county, one at Minnesota City in what is now Yellow Medicine county, the other six or eight miles east of the present site of Redwood Falls. These were called respectively the Upper and Lower Sioux Agencies. Through humanitarian ideas an attempt had been made to civilize and make farmers of these Sioux, for which purpose houses had been built by government, farms opened and a very pretty system inaugurated. It resulted, however, in failure, and the terrible Sioux massacre of 1862 killed all romantic ideas about the "poor Indian" and put a dead stop to immigration to western Minnesota. Prior to the massacre, settlement in this latitude had stopped at the eastern limit of the reservation, and only an occasional trader, who saw large profits in the exchange of poor whiskey and other poor goods for furs, ventured farther west. Three of these trading stations existed before the massacre within the section set off as Lyon county. One was at Lake Benton, one in Lynd and Lyons, and another at Saratoga in the town of Custer.

As early as 1857 and probably a little before that date, a man by the name of Lynd had a trading station on the Redwood river, probably on section 5 in Lyons, and on section 33 in Lynd as stated in the special histories of those towns. Near that locality there were groves of timber which made an attractive camping place for the Sioux. In those times the Indians found very little trouble in getting food, the streams and lakes abounding with fish, and there was plenty of game in the woods and on the prairie, besides the wealth of fur that was yielded by the many lakes in these parts. It is probable that these, the first settlers of Lyon county, so far as we know, lived as easy and perhaps as contented lives as the present settlers. The red pipestone quarry, which was holy ground to them, lay only twelve or fifteen miles from Lyon county as it now stands, and the Indian trails between that and the Minnesota river ran through this county. This section became an Indian tramping ground, and the groves of the Redwood and Cottonwood were familiar and frequented spots.

At the time of the massacre in 1862 there were no settlers and no trading posts in the county. It is fortunate that such was the case. At lake Shetek in Murray county there was a settlement of whites who were slaughtered by the blood-thirsty savages. Mr. Everett, who afterwards became one of the firm who first opened a store here, was then living at Shetek. He was shot, and saw his wife and two children killed and scalped, while a third child a daughter was carried off, but afterward rescued. Mr. Everett, after intense suffering from wounds, escaped and moved to Waseca.

After the massacre much of the land formerly within the Sioux reservation was surveyed and thrown open for settlement. In 1865 emigration began to get across the Minnesota. Redwood Falls and Minnesota City had settlers as soon as 1865, and in 1867 the settlement of Lynd in Lyon county commenced as given in the history of that town. Custer and Stanley received settlers in 1868 and that year and the next two or three years there was quite a rapid immigration that forever extinguished the hunting grounds of the Indian and rendered unto Ceres the things that were hers.

The county was everyway fitted by nature for a rich agricultural section. The level prairie with its wealth of nutritious grass, the many streams and lakes, stocked with fish, the scattered groves, and, above all, the deep rich soil offered inducements that overcame even the fear of Indian sickness, and the home seekers of the east flocked to our prairies to plant here the germs of future agricultural wealth and advanced civilization. Before this the tide of immigration had swept across the states south of us, and though coming here a little later, it came rapidly, making a populous county in three or four years out of tenantless plains.

The settlement of Lynd in 1867 was the controlling settlement in the county for two or three years, and became the county seat when the county was organized in 1872. There was found the only postoffice or store in the county till one was started in 1871 by Wagner & Co. at Lake Benton. This store was sold in 1872 to Dr. G. W. Whitney who before this had a store in Lynd in the old log house formerly used as an Indian trading post.

The first settlers at Lake Benton were Wm. Taylor and Chas. Schintle who went there in the spring of 1868. The former was afterward lost and frozen to death in the blizzard of Jan. 1873. In the same storm Janies Robinson and a Mr. Ebersol of Lincoln county, the latter from Lake Hendrieks, were lost and perished. The Fox family, from near Marshall were lost at the same time and three of them died as mentioned in the history of Lake Marshall. This is said by old settlers to have been the worst blizzard experienced by whites here. Chas. Taylor, a son of the Wm. Taylor who perished in this storm at Lake Benton, was afterward lost in a blizzard between Marshall and Lake Benton and was also frozen to death. With the then almost unbroken prairie for many miles nearly houseless and roadless, these terrible winter storms were likely to overtake those who ventured from home, and to be so overtaken was extremely hazardous. It is a wonder that the mortuary record of the county for those early years does not show more deaths from freezing than it does.

The population of Lyon county was rather sparse in 1869 when the county was set off from Redwood county, though scant settlement had been started at Marshall, Stanley, Custer, Amiret, Lake Benton, Lynd and the town of Lyons.

In December of '69 the governor appointed A. W. Muzzy, L. S. Kiel and E. C. Horton as commissioners. Owing to absences of the commissioners which prevented a meeting no official action was taken till August 1870. The first meeting of the commissioners was held Aug. 12, 1870, at L. Tickner's, Upper Lynd. Mr. Muzzy was chosen chairman; R. Holland was made auditor pro tem by the board, D. M. Taylor elected auditor, and Chas. Hildreth sheriff. The board then adjourned till Oct. 8. E Lamb was then chosen auditor and the board prepared for the first county election by making the following election precincts:

Saratoga premet, towns 107, 110, range 40 and 41. Z. Ferguson and Geo. Robinson were appointed justices and Joseph Wagner, Jas. Mitchell and Clarence Avery judges of election, which was to be held at the house of Geo. Robinson.

Marshall precinct embraced towns 111 and 112, ranges 40 and 41, with W. S. Reynolds and C. H. Whitney, justices; C. H. Upton, Joseph Carter and L. Langdon, judges of election, to be held at house of C. H. Whitney.

Upper Yellow Medicine precinct was town 113, ranges 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44, with Frank Nelson and Mr. Morse, justices.

Lynd precinct embraced towns 111 and 112, ranges 42 and 43 with 109 and 110 of same ranges attached. A. W. Muzzy, A. R. Cummings and L. Tieckner were judges of election. No justices were appointed.

Lake Benton precinct embraced the rest of the county. Ross and Bently were made justices and Wm. Taylor, Dan'l Williams and John Birmingham judges of election to be held at house of Daniel Williams.

At the subsequent election the following officers were elected, 78 votes being cast:

Timothy Eastman, Joseph Wagner and Daniel Williams, commissioners; Geo. E. Keyes, auditor; A. R. Cummings, treasurer; W. H. Langdon, register of deeds; Jas. Cummings, sheriff; A. D. Morgan, clerk of court; A. W. Muzzy, judge of probate; W. M. Pierce, county attorney; Jas. Mitchell, Sr., court commissioner. At a subsequent commissioners meeting in 1871 G. W. Whitnew was appointed superintendent of schools. The commissioner and assessment districts were made as follows: No. 1, all east of range 42. No. 2, range 42. No. 3, all west of range 42.

The location of the county seat at this time was at Upper Lynd, at which place it remained for about two years, when Lower Lynd, having stolen the thunder of its upper rival, took the county seat also. These were times of frontier experience to the few settlers of this county. The luxuries of life then were few and far between only so far as an active imagination surrounded with a *couleur de rose* the commoner things of life. The elasticity of the human mind makes pleasures out of privations, and it is not improbable that some of these early settlers enjoyed themselves better then than now. They were not here for immediate wealth, and society's demands were not very burdensome.

Logs for houses could be had with little trouble, or if not, sod was always plenty. Firewood could be had for the chopping, there then being no stringent laws against cutting on government land. The railroad grant was not then made. Provision was not so easy to provide as very little land was in cultivation and wholesale stores were nearly a hundred miles off. Merchandise, what little was used, was brought from New Ulm, St. Peter or Mankato by team, a long trip, especially in winter. If lumber was wanted logs had to be hauled fifty miles to Redwood Falls, where there was a saw mill. A saw mill was, however, in operation near Upper Lynd in the winter of 1869, which

afforded a great relief to the settlers of these parts. Going to mill for flour was as bad as for lumber. The saw mill having failed to be very remunerative was changed to a grist mill after about three years service in making native lumber. Fishing and hunting in these early times were good, and trapping in some places was a not unimportant source of income. The lakes in the county at that time were the homes of a good many fur animals, including some of the more valuable furs. Trade began in a small way, first with the Indians for ponies, fur, feathers, &c. There were then plenty of Indians roaming around the county in the earlier years of its settlement, though they were always peaceful and anxious to trade what they had for what they hadn't. Frequent dances at which everybody knew everybody and formality was unnecessary and unobserved, an occasional meeting and Sunday-school, visits to the store where the old settlers met to exchange lies and express admiration of Ellis's kicking mule, with the annual elections made up about all the social history of the times.

The first deal in merchandise that could without too dangerous a stretch of the idea be called a store, was by D. M. Taylor, who kept a stock of goods at the P. O. at Upper Lynd, when he was postmaster from June 1868, for sale to the settlers. The next store was opened by G. W. Whitney. Ellis went into trade in 1871.

The settlers of these times were mostly men and their families who were attracted here by the government offer of free land. Usually all that the law allowed was taken as claims, and the holders patiently waited for the tidal wave of immigration to make their possessions valuable. No very great efforts at farming were made. The aim and expected end of most of these frontier settlements was speculation in land. The public lands of Iowa had been swept over and the original holders made wealthy with no efforts of their own. Our early settlers waited for the same experience. Some of them are waiting yet. Many of them left comfortable homes farther east and melted away their small wealth nourishing the hope of coming opulence. Some have partially realized those hopes, and some have got off their nests without any incubation and gone farther west to speculate anew, or back east to tell the hardships of frontier life. The natural hope of the Lynd settlements was that they could keep the county seat, eventually become a railroad town, and thus gain the advantages attached to such conditions. Their location near the center of the county on the Redwood river and in the best groves of the county seemed to make this probable, and it ought to have been so. But the land grant to the W. & St. P. R. R. of all the odd sections for ten miles each side the road wherever it should be built, was an inducement to make the road as long as

possible and to run it where it would take in the best lands. Instead of running anywhere near in a straight line west it therefore ran northwest from one corner of the county to the other leaving Lynd ten miles or so south of the road. This broke up the metropolitan prospects of Lynd, at least until some other railroad shall reach that locality. The railroad reached the Redwood river in 1872 and the next year a vote was taken to divide the county, making the west three tiers of towns into Lincoln county, and to move the county seat from Lynd to Marshall. By this time settlement had scattered all over the county, and Lynd was no longer able to hold its former political influence. The fact that Marshall was centrally located and on the railroad, the only railroad point of any importance in the county at that time, together with the combination made by Marshall with the west end of the county to make a new county seat, outweighed the claims of Lynd, and though the old settlement made the best fight they could, there was a majority in favor of removal and Marshall became the capital of the new county of Lyon. The vote cast at this election on the question of removal was 397 for, 99 against.

The election of 1872 left the following county officers:

Auditor, O. C. Gregg; treasurer, A. R. Cummings; register of deeds, W. H. Langdon; sheriff, Jas. Cummings; clerk of court, A. D. Morgan; judge of probate, Orin Drake; county attorney, W. M. Pierce; court commissioner, Jas. Mitchell; supt. of schools, R. Wait; county surveyor, T. W. Caster; coroner, L. Tickner. J. W. Blake of Marshall was also elected representative.

The politics of the county prior to the county seat removal in 1873 was about four to one republican. The removal made a division of parties here, and the Greeley move coming on at that time was endorsed by many former republicans.

In the campaign of 1874 a people's party was formed which put in nomination the following ticket:

O. C. Gregg, auditor; J. W. Williams, treasurer; G. M. Durst, register; L. Turner, attorney; F. Holritz, clerk; J. Mitchell, Sr., judge of probate, T. W. Caster, coroner; J. N. Johnson, court commissioner; C. L. Van Fleet, surveyor; T. W. Caster commissioner 3d district and J. S. G. Honner of Redwood Falls, senator.

There were 453 votes cast in the county giving the following returns:

For senator, J. W. Blake, 274, J. G. Honner, 169; auditor, O. C. Gregg, 248, S. Truax, 205; treasurer, J. Rouse, 213, J. W. Williams, 229; sheriff, S. Webster, 252, H. Tripp, 197; register, S. Grosbeck, 193, G. M. Durst, 149, W. Clemens, 66; attorney, W. Wakeman, 210, L. Turner, 197; surveyor, C. L. Van Fleet, 360; clerk, O. H. Dahl, 325, F. Holritz, 92; judge of probate, E. B.

Jewett, 264; J. Mitchell, 180; court commissioner, J. N. Johnson, 175, C. A. Edwards 149; coroner, D. M. Taylor, 199, T. W. Caster, 127; commissioner 1st district, Jas. Mitchell Jr., 97, Jones 18; 3d district, H. T. Oakland, 96, T. W. Caster, 25.

This election was carried through with considerable acrimony, the beginning of which was the county seat fight, and enmities were made that were several years appearing in county politics. Since that time the vote of the county has been largely republican on general issues and important offices with two or three slips of a local character and from local causes. In 1876 the district, though largely republican, elected J. W. Williams of Marshall who was born and bred a democrat, to the office of representative. This was owing to a party division in Lincoln county, the republican candidate, J. G. Bryan, not being popular. County offices have also occasionally been filled by democrats.

#### GRASSHOPPER YEARS.

The settlers of Lyon county had become numerous enough by 1884, and agriculture had become fashionable enough to have by the assessors' reports 4,245 acres of wheat sown in the county. This at forty bushels to the acre, the advertised yield which this county was subject to, would have made the farmers of the county well fixed, and have opened a considerable business for grain elevators, &c., if there had not been a new affliction in the germ that was destined to cloud the sky of western Minnesota and check the immigration movement now in full development. The railroad had brought many of the comforts of life, had given the earlier settlers neighbors, a good market and the adjuncts of civilization; the first hardships of pioneer life seemed passing away, and hopes of a prosperous future budded and bloomed under the stimulus of the growing boom, and Lyon county's glorious destiny was almost manifest when from the land of the west wind came the omnivorous hopper. The crop of Lyon county was reduced to an average of not much above ten bushels per acre during the visitation of '71. The south part of the county was rather badly cut, and other portions were visited enough to frighten the settlers and raise a barrier to immigration.

It was thought when the hoppers left in July that no eggs had been left behind, and hopes were again raised that this affliction was at an end. Full crops were sown in the spring of 1875, though they were sown in the shadow of a great fear which soon became realized. In many places eggs hatched out, but the loss from home-bred grasshoppers was small compared with the destruction brought later by the flying millions from the western hatching

grounds. A few weeks before harvest time the air was filled with them, and the grain fields also. Plans for destroying them were devised, published and tried, but it was like sweeping back the tides of the ocean, a never failing supply seeming to be beyond us ready to take the place of those destroyed. Many settlers gave up the fight and sought the means of living farther east. State appropriations were made for the destitute, and the government made laws enabling settlers under homestead laws to leave their lands without forfeiture of their rights. This act, though undoubtedly in many cases a medium for fraud, was a great help to many worthy settlers and saved lands that must otherwise have been lost. But the loss to the county in the stoppage of emigration and the permanent desertion of settlers was very great, and it did not recover from the effects of the grasshopper raid for several years. These pests coming from the hatching grounds on the dried up slopes of the Rocky Mountains came in search of food, and stopped when they found it. The country east of us was very little hurt, and it is improbable, even should a series of dry years again occur to cause flights of hoppers, that this county will again be reached to receive severe damage, as settlement and cultivation has now extended west of us beyond the Missouri river.

Lyon county, however, lived through this period of insect afflictions better than most of the counties around it. Very little state aid was asked for or taken here. The people were poor, to be sure, and some business men failed trying to carry grasshopper sufferers. County orders also became of slow sale at sixty cents on the dollar. This last, however, was as much the result of former bad expenditures as anything else. A debt of about two thousand dollars had been saddled onto the county for mostly useless county books, by the artistic manipulation of a St. Paul agent and the ignorance of the county's seeds on the part of county commissioners. This with other expenses had multiplied and increased until it later became necessary to bond the county for some fifteen thousand dollars, and a rigid reform was inaugurated with a determination to keep receipts and expenditures equal. Since that reform the debt of the county has only been increased some five or ten thousand dollars; and was this spring deemed light enough to safely cover with a \$40,000 bond voted in aid of the Duluth, North Shore and Southwestern railroad, which bond, however, has not yet been issued, and is under an injunction suit.

Within the last few years a large immigration has swelled the population of the county to nearly 7,000, much of the railroad land has been sold, and all the government land taken and largely proved up, so that the county's revenues will hereafter be much larger than heretofore.

This, however, is a historical digression.

In 1874 a grange of Patrons of Husbandry was organized by the farmers of the county, but never accomplished much more than ordinary farmers' clubs. A county agricultural society was also organized, and the first fair held at Marshall. It was said to be a very respectable county fair. The society held fairs yearly after that with the exception of one or two grasshopper years, when it had nothing to show, and has now leased a permanent fair ground and put up buildings in Marshall for fair purposes.

An event of '74, also was a grand reunion of soldiers at Marshall, at which it was ascertained that a large part of the claim holders of the county had been soldiers. This element now supports a large G. A. R. post here.

#### AN INDIAN SCARE.

Two or three families of Norwegians living near Medary started this scare in July of 1874, and were probably the victims of a practical joke. They came to Lake Benton with the story that Fort Wadsworth, sixty miles from Lake Kampska, had been captured by the Indians, who had massacred 200 whites, and were on their way to Lake Benton where they might be expected next day. That Flandreau was in flames and everybody fleeing before painted savages. Such a report, seemingly well backed up, created a commotion at Lake Benton and Marshfield. Several families fled to Lynd, others held a council of war at Marshfield, and remained. John Snyder and Mr. Taylor finally decided to end the uncertainty by going west, and bravely rode to Flandreau, 25 miles. There everything was quiet and no Indian war had been heard of. The return of Snyder and Taylor ended the scare, and, without doubt, brought a feeling of relief to everybody.

It had been so arranged that most of our county officers were elected in the even years, and the election of 1876 made the following changes in county officers:

Register of deeds, C. L. Van Fleet; sheriff, J. A. Hunter; judge of probate and county attorney, D. F. Weymouth; court commissioner, E. Lamb; coroner, J. A. Coleman. The other county officers were continued in office. Gordon Watson had been elected county commissioner the year before. 595 votes were cast in 1876.

Two things occurred in 1876 that quickened the public pulse somewhat. Gold was discovered in the Black Hills and an Indian scare occurred. The former proved to have some substance to it, but the latter turned out to be wholly a shadow. This shadow over in Dakota frightened one or two there who came to Lake Benton with a rumor that the savages were again on the war path and after white scalps. This report frightened a few and just a little.

disturbed a good many. Some left home and sought safety in the towns. Enquiry however proved it all smoke, and the public mind soon settled into the old channels, and the grasshopper question became more talked about than Indians. There was no reality out of which to build an Indian scare for this section except vivid imaginations,

The political events of 1877 were the election of E. St. Julien Cox to the office of district judge against Alfred Wallen, and J. W. Williams as representative against J. G. Bryan. The defeated candidates were republicans in this case. Williams was a resident of Marshall.

The election of 1878 made the following changes in county offices:

Treasurer, G. A. Jacobson; register, W. M. Coleman; attorney, A. C. Forbes; surveyor, H. L. Coats; clerk of court C. E. Patterson; county commissioner, G. W. Link.

In 1879 there were 22,400 acres of wheat sown in the county, but the crop was injured by blight as it was everywhere in the state. Lyon county this year, however, took the first premium at the state fair for an exhibition of grains. There were also 2,500 head of cattle shipped from the county, showing that stock raising had not been forgotten.

Bishop Ireland this year bought nearly ten thousand acres, mostly in Westerheim and Grandview for a Catholic colony, broke 2,200 acres and established quite a colony from the old country.

The assessed valuation of the county was now something over a million and a half. There were 50 school districts, most of which had summer and winter schools. The county had four flouring mills, one in Marshall a steam mill. Everything was in prosperous shape and the county favorably known abroad. There were 120 car loads of immigrants' mementos received at the stations in the county during the year.

The election of 1880 elected A. M. Daniels, register of deeds; S. V. Grossbeck, coroner; W. M. Miller, surveyor. The commissioners had been reelected, demanding, James and Jonathan Owen, M. C. Humphrey, Fred Holritz, Jim McCall and H. L. Coats were elected.

The census of the county taken this year by the U. S. gave Lyon county a population of 32,222.

The wheat crop of this year was in very good case, 35 and 40 bushels to the acre being claimed in several cases.

In 1882 a spirit of political unrest had taken possession of the public mind, and the usual convention proceedings failed to satisfy. It had become by precedent and practice a sort of understanding that the Scandinavians were to claim the office of county treasurer and N. W. L. Jager was nominated at the

county convention. Treasurer Jacobson, who had been in office before had, however, been found some \$400 short in his accounts and to have run the office very loosely. A prejudice against Scandinavians as treasurers, caused the calling of an independent convention which nominated R. M. Addison for treasurer. Some other changes were also made in the ticket, but the convention fell into a quarrel, and the democrats issued another ticket, with J. W. Williams for treasurer, M. E. Mathews for attorney, and D. F. Weymouth for judge of probate. There were thus three tickets in the field. Before the first convention a desire to put in new officers all around had shown itself and had been worked upon by interested parties, so that the regular republican nominees were largely new men. The district fight that fall over the office of senator between J. W. Blake and V. M. Smith had been a severe one, and the winning of the nomination by Blake had some political peculiarities about it that left a divided party in the county and much enmity. The election, therefore was a spirited and somewhat ugly one, resulting in the election of the following ticket:

Auditor, Jas. Lawrence; treasurer, R. M. Addison; sheriff, J. F. Remore; register, R. D. Bumford; judge of probate, J. F. Brown; attorney, A. C. Forbes; clerk of court, C. E. Patterson; court commissioner, D. Wilcox; county commissioners, Hugh Neill and Geo. Carlaw.

L. A. Gregg was elected school superintendent in 1883.

#### A VIEW OF THE COUNTY.

Lyon county has twenty townships as will be seen in the map which accompanies this book. With the exception of a small portion along the west line which is cut by the coteau range, there is very little waste land in the county and its agricultural resources are fully up to the best section of the west. With fertile farm lands, and an abundance of meadows of wild grass, which for nutritiousness holds its own with tame grass, makes the county one of the favored spots of southwestern Minnesota for farming, stock growing or dairying, and its prairies are fast becoming thrifty farms and prosperous homes. Several streams, which in the west come properly under the head of rivers, flow through the county. None of them are navigable however in low water. Lakes dot the topography here and there, and the combination of rolling prairie, running streams and beautiful lakes makes a landscape that fascinates all beholders who see it in its summer glory.

Immigration has been rapidly flowing in till the government land is all taken up. There is yet considerable railroad land for sale, and some of the lands of private individuals, taken on speculation and otherwise, can be bought

## LYON COUNTY.

from \$4 an acre upwards according to nearness to towns. Most of the streams have groves of timber on them; the Redwood, south of Marshall, and the Cottonwood, in Custer and Amiret, having considerable timber.

Two railroads now run across the county, shown on the map, and one from northeast to southwest will undoubtedly be built this year. This is one from Duluth to Yankton, and will offer a competing market that will greatly help producers here. One other from Iowa, a branch of the Rock Island system, is projected through the county to join the lines of the company north of us. This will give more direct access to the Iowa coal fields and cheapen that product.

### WINTER STORMS.

The greatest bugbear, probably, connected with western Minnesota and Dakota in the minds of people who know of it only by report, is the northwest blizzard. We do not here intend to rise as a defender of the blizzard. It needs no defender, being usually able to take care of itself. The winter storms of the northwest are severe, and the blizzard is a variety of storm unknown to eastern sections. Several deaths have occurred in Lyon county from these storms. In the winter of 1872 and '73 one occurred which is said to have been worse than anything of the kind since experienced. In Lyon county there were six persons that perished in that storm. Three of the Fox family, Wm. Taylor, James Robinson and a man by the name of Ebersold. Settlement at that time was sparse, but there was considerable suffering and loss of stock in consequence of it. The winter of 1875 was also one of frequent and terrible storms. Mr. Pierce of Lynd, father of the Pierces of Camden, was lost while trapping, and afterwards found dead. Henry Gibbs of Fairview was also frozen to death in one of the blizzards of this winter, and about this time Chas. Taylor, son of the Wm. Taylor frozen to death in 1873, also perished in a blizzard. In Oct. 1880 a severe snow storm visited this section that did great damage on account of its coming unexpectedly and so far ahead of season. Considerable stock perished in this storm, but we believe there was no loss of human life. The following winter was one of heavy snows and frequent blizzards. No trains ran from Jan. to April and the fuel supply failed in mid-winter. The roads were almost impassable and the little wood that could be obtained from the Lynd woods was high-priced and green. The winter was one that the settlers will long remember. Hay and oats were burned where they could be obtained, but there were some families who could not obtain even hay. Other things also ran short and the settlers on the front tier in the winter of 1880 know what extreme privation is. A young man by the name of Kiel and an Icelander were frozen to death near Minneota this or the

subsequent winter. In 1883 two deaths occurred near Marshall in a February storm. Mr. L. C. Hildreth, an old settler of Lyons, attempted to go home from a neighbor's one night in a snow storm, but the storm turning to a blizzard he lost his way and wandered all night to near Balaton, where he was found dead after the storm. During the same storm a Miss Eliza Cain attempted to go home from a neighbor's near Amiret and lost her way. She wandered with the storm during the night till frozen and was found dead on the prairie at the close of the storm.

This is a record that we dislike to publish, but it is a part of our county's history. More extensive settlement of the county, the planting of groves and a better knowledge of the characteristics of these storms will, we hope, prevent future accidents of this kind. Aside from a very few of these storms, sometimes none during the winter, our winters are accompanied with less suffering than those of countries east or south of us. Being always dry and healthy, the winters of this section as a whole are not a serious drawback, or much to be dreaded by those who are prepared for winter weather.

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## RAILROAD STATIONS.

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### MINNEOTA.

The most westerly station on the north branch of the C. & N. W. lines is Minneota.

The town was laid out by the railroad company in 1876 on section 25 of Eidsvold. A store had been opened near here by H. D. Frink who also kept the P. O. from 1872 to 1875, when it was transferred to N. W. L. Jager, the present occupant. Mr. Jager opened a store in 1874 and moved it to the present site of Minneota in 1875. This was the first store on the site. The same year T. D. Seals opened a store there. After the permanent establishment of the station by the railroad company, business gradually drifted in till the village is now one of four or five hundred population, with all the usual branches of business represented. Minneota is an incorporated village, has a good school building, a Catholic church, two grain elevators with ten horse engines, depot buildings, &c., and is on the high road to prosperity.

The business record of the town is as follows:

N. W. L. Jager, general merchandise.

Hanson Bros., hardware and livery, furniture and machinery.

T. Hanson, dry goods and groceries, &c.

T. D. Seals, " "

Ole O. Brenna, "

## LYON COUNTY.

Theo. Rye, hardware and tinware.  
 Wimer Bros., drugs.  
 C. Kenyon, farm machinery.  
 Frost & Peterson, groceries  
 Davidson Bros., Bank of Minneota.  
 J. C. Peterson, agent for Laird & Norton's lumber yard.  
 L. C. Porter, elevator, Wm. Davidson agent.  
 Van Dusen & Co., elevator, G. N. Lee, agent.  
 P. Ferguson, hotel.  
 Tony Winters, harness maker.  
 Geo. Mantel, boots and shoes.  
 Sam Leeland and Arney Rye, blacksmiths.  
 Swend Peterson and W. Hester, saloons.  
 Dennis Cahil, grocery.  
 Dr. Seals, meat market.  
 G. A. Dalman, feed mill.  
 Doctors Wimer, Renniger and Sanderson.  
 J. R. Smith, depot agent and telegraph operator.  
 The Porter elevator bought in 1883, wheat, 125,000 bushels; barley, 1,000; oats, 15,000. Coal sold, \$2,000; flour, \$3,000; salt, \$600.  
 Van Dusen's elevator for 1883 bought, wheat, 150,000 bushels; barley, 2,500; oats, 4,000; hides, \$1,200. It sold 40 tons of hard coal, 180 tons soft 250 cords of wood, 70,000 pounds of flour.

The Bank of Minneota, of which Wm. Davidson is president, A. D. Davidson vice president, A. D. Davidson cashier, reports paper on hand for collection, \$150,000; exchange business, \$200,000; capital stock, \$25,000.

There were 4,911,508 pounds of freight received at the station in 1883, and 9,609,815 pounds forwarded.

The Minneota wind feed mill ground in 1883, 15,000 bushels of feed.

Laird & Norton's lumber yard reports sold in 1883, 1,000,000 feet of lumber, 150,000 lath, 500,000 shingles, 20,000 brick, 450 barrels of lime, 100 bushels of hair.

This shows somewhat the business of the town. Its future prospects as the seat of the Catholic colony are very promising.

## GLENNT.

In May 1878 the village of Grandview was laid out by Mr. Jacoby. In April of that year J. P. Ray erected a store building and occupied it as grocery. The business was not however a success, and the store was closed out in Oct. of that year. The postoffice was established in June 1877, with J. M. Vaughn P. M. Mr. Vaughn put up the first grain warehouse, and bought wheat for

**Van Dusen & Co.** The postoffice was kept in Ray's store till the collapse when it was moved to Vaughn's house, two miles northwest, where it was kept till 1880, when it was removed to the town site of Grandview. In 1880 J. Fagen, one of the Irish Catholic colonists, built the second store, but soon failed. R. F. Laythe, built the third store in 1882, occupying it with goods for Olof Pehrson of Marshall. He was also made P. M. In 1882 the R. R. Co. built a commodities depot. Mr. King was then agent. Van Dusen & Co. built an elevator the same year. John Fodness was then agent till the fall of 1882, when Joseph Letourneau took his place. About this time the name of the postoffice and station was changed to Ghent by the Belgian colonists. Mr. Loranger was R. R. agent then for a time. In March 1883 Laythe sold [out] to Capistrand & Soucheray, Catholic colonists. Mr. Soucheray bought his partner's interest in June following. In Dec. 1883 E. Paradis bought the Fagen store and opened a stock of goods. Mr. Story ran a hotel there for a time in 1883, and a blacksmith shop was run.

The settlement of Ghent is largely by Belgian and French colonists. With the settling up of the vacant lands around Ghent, it will become of much more importance.

#### AMIRET.

This station, about ten miles east of Marshall, was located on its present site by the railroad company in 1874. Two years prior to this they had had a switch about a mile southeast of this, and had called the station Coburg after Wm. Coburn who started a store on section 32 in 1872. He was also postmaster. The station has not made very rapid strides toward a village yet, and at present has only one store, kept by Mr. Kelly. Several stores have at different times been started there, but the settlement prefer to do most of their trading at Marshall and Tracy. Van Dusen & Co. have an elevator there, the railroad company has a fair depot, and the town has a good frame school house and a few buildings.

#### BALATON.

In Oct. 1879 the village of Balaton was laid out on the northwest corner of section 23 on the south side of Lake Yankton, and on the line of the Dakota Central railway. The village has three general stores, one hardware store, one blacksmith and wagon shop, two hotels, one elevator, one warehouse, lumber yard &c. David Bell was the first to go into business having built a store soon after the village plat was made. The business men of Balaton are:

N. A. Sanders dealer in hardware and machinery.

A. Parker, " general merchandise.

J. A. Moore, " " " and drugs.

J. B. Gibbons, " " " and postmaster.

## LYON COUNTY.

H. H. Stevenhofer, wheat buyer for Winona Mill Co.  
 N. Zeehus, wheat buyer for Seafield & Co.  
 L. Campbell, justice of the peace.  
 W. H. Davy, constable.  
 A. N. Daniels, notary public and insurance agent.  
 W. Ham, proprietor of Balaton Hotel, now leased by C. S. Riley.  
 E. D. Bartlett, proprietor of Lake Avenue Hotel.

The village is very pleasantly situated on the lake shore, is in the midst of a very rich farming section, and with the filling up of the country by immigration will undoubtedly become a thrifty and populous village.

## TRACY.

The railroad station was moved in 1874 from Summit, across the county line in Redwood Co., to its present site on section 23, and named Tracy. The town was laid out by the railroad company. H. N. Joy moved a frame building from the farm of E. L. Starr in the fall of that year, and opened the first store. Its location was on the corner of Front and Third streets. The Commercial hotel was commenced the same year by H. H. Welch, who ran it till 1879, when it was bought by its present proprietor, M. D. Gibbs. E. O. Brauns and J. P. Davis started stores in 1875. J. M. Wardell opened a furniture store and lumber yard in 1876. In 1878 J. L. Craig, who had been depot agent for two years, opened a livery stable. D. H. Evans a hardware store, Iverson & Thurin a general store, and Dr. C. M. Ferro located there. In 1879 Chas. Bohannan opened a drug store, J. J. Hartigan a saloon, F. E. Mallory a jewelry store, John Selck a wagon shop, I. A. Walden a meat market, Chas. W. Main a law office and D. W. Kutchin started the Tracy Gazette. At this time the Dakota Central railroad was built west from Tracy to Volga. The next spring the U. S. census gave the village a population of 322. About thirty buildings were put up in 1880 and 1882. The village was incorporated in 1881. A fine brick school building was built in 1880, costing \$6,000. It has four departments, three of which now have schools. In 1883 W. M. Todd, who had been in the mercantile business there for a year or two, bought the Gazette, and changed its name to the Trumpet. The R. R. Co. found the obtaining of water sufficient for railroad purposes an impossibility by sinking wells, and have lately built an aqueduct to Lake Sigel. The improvements of the R. R. Company since removing the division there from Sleepy Eye are quite extensive, and the village has assumed a position of importance as a railroad town. It also has a U. S. Land office. The present business of the town is shown below:

General stores—Pattridge Bros., J. P. Davis, R. E. Hughes, Warren & Owens; Iverson & Thurin, A. H. Perry.

Groceries and crockery—Gauerke, Weber & Co.  
Clothing—Jacobi Bros. & Co., John Shea.  
Jewelry and drugs—C. L. Bohannan, F. E. Mallory.  
Meat market—I. A. Walden, J. W. Potter.  
Millinery and dressmaking—Stencernagel & Currie, Warren & Inman.  
Hardware—D. H. Evans, H. Stafford, J. E. Clark, N. Beach.  
Hotels—M. D. Gibbs, Neil Finch, B. K. Cowles, Murphy & McDonald, Larson Bros., A. D. McMasters.  
Livery—Lindsley & Fitch, J. L. Craig, John Germain.  
Laundry—Ching Kee, Mary Otis.  
Shoemaking—Jas. Marshall, Henry Heine.  
Tailoring—H. Alexander, P. A. Lamberg.  
Harness—Wagner & Co.  
Wagon maker—John Selck.  
Blacksmiths—Paul Hangen, John Glynn.  
Novely store—H. F. Seiter.  
Bank of Tracy—Jessup & Co.  
Barbers—Jackson & Seiter, H. A. Bates.  
Restaurants—C. J. Gardener, Mary Leavett.  
Furniture—J. M. Wardell.  
Lumber—Wardell, Beach & Co.  
Machinery—S. D. Peterson, Marlette and Lloyd, D. H. Evans.  
Elevators—Van Dusen & Co., Whitten & Judd, Winona Mill Co., D. H. Evans.  
Coal—Van Dusen, S. J. Randall.  
Saloons—J. J. Hartigan, Fred Lehman, Martin Hose, C. Anderson.  
Beer depots—Aug. Schell, C. & J. Michel, Hartigan & Armstrong.  
Wholesale liquors—E. H. Roach & Co.  
Physicians—C. M. Ferro, Mrs. L. Ferro, S. S. Jones, H. M. Workman, O. E. Case.  
Attorneys—C. W. Main, Van Buskirk & Brown, John Lind, also receiver of U. S. land office.  
Tracy Trumpet—W. M. Todd.  
Skating rink—Welch & Davis.  
Postmaster—E. O. Brauns.  
Photographs—W. I. Carver.  
Painters—Manuel & Cogswell.  
Express agent—I. E. Segur.

## MARSHALL.

The first settlers on the territory now occupied by the village of Marshall were C. H. Whitney and C. H. Upton, who came here in 1869. Whitney took the sec<sup>nd</sup> and Upton the ne<sup>th</sup>. They first built sod shanties, the remains of which can yet be seen. At that time there was little to indicate its present conditions. The river was here and so was an Indian trail from Lynd to Redwood Falls. Outside of these advantages, the present town site was only good farming land. Nov. 24, 1870, the first birth occurred, that of Fannie Whitney. The first death was a daughter of Jas. Armstrong, of scarlet fever. In 1872 the Winona & St. Peter railroad was located through the township, taking in section 4, and immigration rapidly set in toward this point. A townsite company was formed, consisting of J. H. Jenkins, J. H. Stewart, J. W. Blake, W. G. Ward, railroad civil engineers, and C. H. Whitney, who owned part of the land in the proposed site. The village was laid out in August 1872 in the central part of section 4. Milo Morse and Mrs. U. S. Stone held the sw and nw quarters by government claims located in 1870. The sw was bought of Morse and the south half of the ne of Mrs. Stone.

The first house on this original plat was the sod house of Milo Morse near Van Dusen's coal house. It is stated in the history of Lake Marshall township that the first child born was a child of one of the Billings'. The Billings child was the first in the originally platted village, and subsequent to the birth of Fannie Whitney, the first in the township. The first store building was the one now occupied by J. Goodwin as a carpenter shop and belonged to Addison, Everett & Co. It was put up on Main street in the center of what is now Third street.

The fall of 1872 saw the completion of the railroad to this point, and found the following men here in business: Everett & Co., D. P. Billings, J. A. Coleman, general stores; W. M. Todd, lumber yard; Daniel Farquar, blacksmith; Wakeman & Pierce and E. B. Jewett, attorneys. C. H. Whitney built a hotel, part of the present Merchants' Exchange, in the fall of 1872, and was overwhelmed with guests. During the fall of 1872 and the spring of 1873 a hay stack even had value as a lodging place. The railroad men slept in the lee side of a stack as a rule, and three in a bed was a condition of opulence and favoritism. During one rush for brush at Whitney's hotel the floor broke down, filling the potato bins in his cellar full of hungry guests. In these early days it is said there were also fleas, and many stories of midnight misery are told, most of which we never believed.

During the winter of 1872-73 a school was taught in Todd's lumber office. G. H. Darling began the school, but it was finished by Walter Wakeman.

The winter was a hard one, the railroad, as usual in the early years of our history, was blockaded most of the winter, and several went east to escape the lonesomeness of this kind of exile. The spring of 1873 brought them all back; however, and with them a rush of new settlers.

John Ward was R. R. agent for a time. M. E. Wileox was telegraph operator, but soon became agent in place of Ward. Daniel Wileox opened a blacksmith shop. Wakeman & Groesbeck, a physician, opened a drug store. Wakeman became postmaster. In August of 1873 J. C. Ervin moved a printing office here from Dell Rapids, Dakota, and started the Prairie Schooner, the name of which was suggested by Gen. Pierce. In its columns at this time we find the following here in business in addition to those above mentioned:

C. Woodbury, Marshall House; P. Van Zant, Travellers' Rest; J. F. Metcalf, blacksmith; H. S. Adams, wagon shop; J. P. Watson, hardware store; Mrs. E. Burrall, milliner; A. G. Underhill, confectionery, &c.; Langdon & Laythe, lumber yard; J. W. Whitney, hardware; J. Bagley, meat market; Turner & Loope, lumber, furniture and machinery; E. Fuller, photographs; J. W. Blake, agent of townsite company. C. H. Whitney burned a kiln of 85,000 brick this season. The kiln was at the northeast end of Third street. The Congregational society put up a building for a church on Main street, the one now owned by Geo. E. Johnson. The public school was taught there by Miss D. Wheeler, now Mrs. G. M. Durst. W. M. Todd went into partnership with Coleman & Co. L. Nichols opened a livery. H. J. Tripp was in the machine business. A Masonic lodge was formed. J. F. Reichert built his brick block of two store buildings in the fall of this year.

In 1874, Kendall's mill was built. Blake started a cheese factory. B. A. Grubb opened a harness shop. Groesbeck sold his interest in the drug store to Whitney, who also became P. M. The store and postoffice were burned in Dec. L. F. Pickard ran a tin shop. A. Bean was a lightning rod agent. M. M. Marshall opened a furniture store and built a grain warehouse. C. A. Edwards ran a lumber yard. Fuller & Co. a feed store. D. F. Weymouth a law office. Lookley & Yates became a firm for masons' work. J. Goodwin & Co. builders. Dr. Burgoyne arrived, a brass band was organized, Murryes and Reichert being its managers. Rev. Galpin, assisted by Rev. E. Goodwin conducted the M. E. church, and Rev. Simmons the Congregational society. Alexander Sanders was killed by lightning in August on Norton Billing's place. A drama society was formed and the play of the People's Lawyer successfully produced. A literary society was also organized.

The spring of 1875, having been preceded by a winter of much snow, opened with a flood. An ice gorge was formed below the village, and the lower parts of the town were under water so much that several families had to be helped out with boats.

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The Prairie Schooner was sold this year to the writer of this book, and the name changed in September to the Marshall Messenger. The octagon part of the present school house was built in the spring, Addison & Tripp formed a machine partnership, I. P. Farrington opened a general store, Joe Sears a shoe shop, Dr. Newell a dentist's office, J. A. Hutchins a blacksmith shop, Whitney & Webster an insurance office. Everett sold his interest in the store to Addison & Mott. Geo. Nichols built a brick building, now the court room. A double brick block was built by marshall, Coleman & Co. and C. F. Case at the head of Third street.

In 1876 we find among the new business houses, Keyes & Blake, blacksmiths; P. F. Wise, farm machinery; O. Pehrson, general merchandise; Burgoyne & Jewett, drags, which afterwards fell into the hands of C. M. Wilcox; Edwards, feed mill; B. F. Jellison, shoe shop; I. Burrall, carpenter; M. M. Marshall, drugs; B. Gibbs and D. Crowley, meat markets; Mrs. Clemens and Mrs. Underhill, milliners; S. J. Watkins, machinery; H. B. Gary, Edwards and Addison & Mott had grain warehouses. W. M. Todd bought out Coleman and operated the store alone.

In 1877 came E. H. Puffer, who sold his goods and disappeared like the morning dew, so much ahead of his wholesale men. D. Bell went into the hotel. W. M. Todd sold out to C. B. Todd, who took W. H. Lynn into partnership and afterward failed. M. E. Wilcox bought out the bankrupt stock of I. P. Farrington's and after running it a year or so, also failed. D. McIntyre went into partnership with J. Andrews in furniture, McCormick opened a meat market, C. A. Haskel a gunsmith shop, Horton & Hamilton a lumber yard with W. M. Todd agent.

1878 saw Bennett & Hunt in the sale of blooded horses. Hunt afterwards bought the hotel which Bell had been trying to run. A. C. Chittenden bought the Todd stock and opened a store. Griswold & Hillyer put in the Wisconsin store. Thos. Watson built and opened the Marshall House. McNiven Bros. started a livery stable. Drs. Persons, Andrew and Houston, and attorneys Chittenden, Forbes, Seward and Gove located here. G. A. Tracy opened a furniture store, was succeeded by Thos. Wookey. Jewellers W. H. Wright, W. C. Kayser, and J. Lohmiller were in business. Aldrich & Houston bought out Marshall's drug store. Owen & Dibble opened the Bank of Marshall. The Messenger block, six brick stores, was built and occupied by Lyon Co. Bank, Schutz & Kyle, dry goods, E. L. Healy, groceries, S. Keyser, clothing, C. M. Wilcox, drugs, J. H. Snyder, books, &c. The last was bought by C. F. Case in a few weeks, and clothing store soon passed to Chambers Bros. E. D. Allison also occupied rooms as a dentist. Three brick yards were run by Crooker,

Whitney and Loekey. L. Lavake opened a market, having been displaced as R. R. agent. Robt Waldron also opened a store.

In 1879 we find Laythe & Tripp, machinery; F. Weikle and Lohmiller, markets; J. W. Blake lumber yard; F. S. Wetherbee, store; J. F. Remore, machinery; King & Wakeman, drugs; W. L. Watson, machinery; Youmans & Co., with M. Sullivan, agent; Mathews & Andrews and M. B. Drew, attorneys; E. J. Harrison, marble-cutter; Laythe & Pehrson, store. VanDusen & Co. built an elevater. Todd & Edes started a second paper, the Lyon Co. News.

By the census of 1880 the village had a population of about 1,000. Some changes have since occurred. Blake built an extesive wind grist mill, which was traded to Geo. Welch, blown to pieces in the blizzard of Oct. 1880, and, afterward burned. It was fully insured, however. John Berry built a large steam mill, and ran it a few months, when it was also burned in the winter of 1881. A constant shower of fire from it came near burning the whole town.

The first religious services in the village were by Rev. E. H. Alden of Was-eca in 1872, in a tent every other week. Between times the tent was used for a saloon.

The village was incorporated in 1876, but a detective charter caused a second incorporation in 1881. The incorporation includes sections 4, 5, and 9.

The Marshall school is now a graded school with four departments and about 200 pupils.

There are two church buildings, Methodist and Congregational, the latter a fine church.

The county owns three buildings in the village, two offices and one used for a court room.

The Marshall postofice in a Presidential office. W. Coleman succeeded Whitney in 1875, C. F. Case followed in 1878, and S. D. How in 1883.

There are 17 two story brick buildings and several fine residences. The W. & St. P. R. R. Co. have a general land office.

The population of the town is mostly American, and intellectually and so-cially the equal of any community in the west.

The stores in the village mostly carry exceptionally large stocks of goods, and are doing a prosperous trade. The present business of the village is as follows:

MERCANTILE—A. C. Chittenden, J. Schutz, F. S. Wetherbee, O. Pehrson, Edwards & Co., general stores; E. L. Healy, Humphrey & Gail, J. W. Williams, groceries and crockery; J. P. Watson, R. M. Addison, hardware and machinery; Youmans Bros. and Horton Lumber Co., lumber; Louis Janda boots and shoes; C. M. Wileox, W. Wakeman, A. B. Sweet, drugs; S. Butturff, furniture; W. C. Kayser, books, stationery and tobaccos; M. Hooker, stationery and tobaccos; Mrs. Hillyer, millinery; J. Price, John Russell,

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Mrs. Hicks, bakery and restaurant; Fred Watson, harness; Woodruff & Wilber and F. Weikle, meat markets; Parsons & Wise, exclusive clothing.

TRADES—E. J. Harrison, marble cutter; Arthur M. Nichols, R. B. Vondersmith, B. Vosburg, painters; J. McGandy, photographs; M. H. Gibson, Geo. Heinmiller, C. J. Price, R. Curtis, blacksmiths; S. Marshall, wagon maker; J. B. Murray, O. C. Philips, barbers.

PROFESSIONS—C. E. Persons, J. Armington, A. Poaps, physicians; E. D. Allison, dentist; Forbes & Seward, M. E. Mathews, M. B. Drew, D. F. Weymouth, E. B. Jewett, E. A. Gove, attorneys; Revs. J. B. Fairbank, Congregational, and J. W. Powell, Methodist; Geo. M. Durst, Miss Mikkelson, Miss Downie, Mrs. Durst, teachers.

MISCELLANEOUS—Messenger, C. F. Case; News, C. C. Whitney; elevators, Van Dusen & Co., E. Frick, agent; Porter Milling Co., W. A. Hunter, agent; T. King, grist mill; L. Niehols, livery; W. Keith, W. Simmons, H. Hoyt, hotels, Geo. E. Johnson, cattle buyer; B. Wright, wind feed mill; Peterson & Co., tailors; D. G. Stewart, sewing machine agency; C. M. Wilcox, express agent; H. M. Burchard railroad land agent; T. A. Woodruff, railroad agent; Van Winkle, telegraph operator; Chas Kent, collection agent. Straight & Co. have a large creamery. Woodbury & Friek, own a skating rink.

Having the county seat, one railroad, and a pretty sure prospect of two others, Marshall's future is as bright as that of any town in western Minnesota.

## TOWN OF LUCAS.

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In the north-east corner of the county, and bounded north by Yellow Medicine and east by Redwood counties, lies the town of Lucas; a rich agricultural district, and one of the fairest and best of Lyon County's twenty townships.

The ideal Minnesota town, in the minds of those who have paid attention to the topography of our state, is one where rolling prairies and sparkling lakes alternate with frequency, thus giving, as it were, a dappled scenery nowhere found in such perfection as in the Gopher State. Lucas is one of those towns. While the prairie is mostly dry, arable land with occasional fine meadows of rich native grass, free from sloughs and swamps, the water supply of the town is ample without permanent rivers or creeks, in its many beautiful little lakes which are scattered over the whole area of the town. There are seven clear-water lakes of respectable size, with high banks, dry beaches, well stocked with fish and the resort of thousands of water-fowl, furnishing variety and beauty to the prairie scenery, and unparalleled attractions to the settler and the sportsman.

In section 3 is Sham Lake, not very large, nor very deep, but a pretty little body of water. In sections 4, 5, 8 and 9 a much larger body of water is found, called Cottonwood Lake, from several large cottonwood trees on the east end. There is also a grove of timber on the north shore. In section 11 is Lake Hamre, named from E. T. Hamre, a settler near it. It has a little timber on the south side. In section 17 a small lake is named Lake Susan on the railroad maps, but called Bogus Lake by the Lucasites. On section 20 and 21 is Lady Shoe Lake named from its supposed resemblance to that article. There

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is some timber on the north side. In sections 23, 24, 25 and 26 Lady Slipper Lake, somewhat the shape of the last named, but larger, sleeps amid banks bare of timber. Just why the larger should be called a slipper and the smaller a shoe is one of those curiosities of nomenclature that no fellow successfully tries to find out. In section 36 is School Grove Lake, getting its name, probably from its being on a school section and having a grove on its east end.

These lakes are not, like the lakes of the country south of Minnesota, surrounded by swamp, but have beaches of sand, gravel and stone. There is usually a deposit of boulders around a part of them. The lakes, too, make very little waste land. Lucas has scarcely any waste land, but is considered one of the best towns for agricultural purposes in the west. The W. & St. P. R. R. Co. appreciated this fact to such an extent that they fixed the price of their lands in this town higher than in other towns equally distant from the railroad. Since then they have withdrawn from market about half their lands there, reserving, for purposes best known to themselves, the land in the northeast half of the town.

The crops of Lucas have uniformly been good, even in grasshopper years. Mr. R. H. Price states that his lowest average of wheat, even in those times was nine bushels per acre. In 1883, according to the assessor's returns, there were 2,187 acres of wheat sown, 698 acres of oats, 362 acres of corn, 127 acres of barley, 20 acres of potatoes, and other crops sufficient to make up a total acreage under cultivation of 3,418. By the same report the town had 191 milch cows, 153 sheep with a yield of 1,268 pounds of wool. These last figures were considerably increased during the summer of 1883. There are 132 acres of forest trees planted and growing, and 317 rods set out on highways. This promises well for the future fuel supply of the town, and it is an industry that will be more largely entered into in coming years. The benefits of cultivated timber on our prairies, both in furnishing fuel, beautifying the farm and enhancing real estate values, is becoming better recognized and acted on each year.

The chief obstacle to the rapid settlement and development of Lucas heretofore has lain in its distance from railroad markets. This has been considerably overlooked because of its superiority of soil and lake attractions, and the town makes a good showing in its farm and home improvements, but with a near railroad it would have been much more sought after and have made a much better record than it has. This want of the town is now in a fair way to be remedied. A line of railroad from the south via Worthington and Tracy was given a preliminary survey in 1883, and will probably run into or very near Lucas. This is one of the projected lines of the Rock Island system,

and will probably be built to a northern connection with Fargo by the way of Big Stone Lake. If built soon it must in all events, greatly benefit Lucas by giving it a near market and better facilities for settlement.

The postoffices of the settlers of Lucas are Vineland, Wood Lake, Silliards in Yellow Medicine Co. and Marshall. Sham Lake postoffice was kept up for some years by Mr. R. H. Price who also formerly had a store there, but the trouble of running it overbalanced its benefits, and it was discontinued some two or three years ago.¶

The town has no native timber except that on the lakes before mentioned, and most of the fuel is bought in Marshall, the trading point for the town.

Settlement was first made in Lucas about thirteen years ago. In June of 1871 Wm. H. Slater and R. H. Price came up from Olmstead county and took the first claims taken in the town. Mr. Price built the first house, and is still a resident of the town. Mr. Slater removed to Pelican Rapids. During the same year Allend Christianson, Peter Oliason, E. T. Hamre, H. Dahl and Jas. Wardrop took claims and settled in the town. Other settlers soon followed, and the question of organizing and naming the town began to be discussed. In 1873 an organization was secured under the name of Canton. This name, though seemingly a good one, was not satisfactory, and it was changed to Lisbon, another good name, but no more satisfactory than the first. The name of Moe, after one of the supervisors, was then tried, but was again changed to Lucas, which name seemed to stick.

The first town meeting, held Aug. 5, 1873, resulted in the election of the following as the first officers of the town.¶

Jas. Wardrop, chairman; O. H. Dahl and John Moe, supervisors; R. H. Price, clerk; N. T. Dahl, assessor and treasurer; T. S. Norgaard and P. H. Dahl, justices; R. J. Benjamin and Geo. Anderson constables.

In 1873 the cause of education was proved a factor of the public mind by the opening of the first school taught in the town in a small building built by R. H. Price on section 2. The teacher was Ella Williams.

The first child born to the town was Albert Erwin, Feb. 27, 1872; the first marriage that of D. R. Burlette and Alice M. Price, July 16, 1873; the first death that of a son of John Krog in winter of 1873.

The first sermon preached was by Rev. Joseph Williams, a pastor of the United Brethren society. How much of the seed thus sown fell on stony ground or by the wayside, we have no means of accurately measuring; but there arose an awakening of interest in the subject of the latter end of man early in the town's history, and there were soon formed two church organizations, the Norwegian Lutheran and the United Presbyterian. Rev. J. Hunzi-

ker, a foreign missionary for some years, had charge of the former society, and Rev. B. McCullough of the latter.

There are quite a number of Scotch settlers in Lucas, largely from Canada and Nova Scotia. In the north part of the town there are several Scandinavians. There are also some German settlers and a good many Americans. The farms generally are thrifty, and the farmers prosperous.

The settlement is principally on the even sections, having been largely taken as government claims. The odd sections, belonging to the W. & St. P. R. R. Co. by a land grant, have not yet received many settler, though considerable land has been sold.

The present town officers of Lucas are Ole Hattestad, chairman; John McLennan and E. T. Hamre, supervisors; E. S. Reishus, clerk; J. C. Gray, treasurer; J. A. H. Dahl, justice; Chris H. Dahl, constable.

The settlers of Lucas are distributed as follows:

Sec. 2. West half is owned and occupied by R. H. Price, who has a fine farm on Sham Lake. Iver Nelson occupies the west half of the east half, and N. Nelson lives on the north east forty.

Sec. 4. E. S. Reishus has the west half; Arrestad brothers, the northeast quarter.

Sec. 5. L. P. Aaberg has the northeast quarter.

Sec. 6. G. Anderson, northeast quarter; J. A. H. Dahl, southeast; N. Rosvold, northwest, M. Rosvold, southwest.

Sec. 7. J. H. Anderson has a forty in northeast quarter.

Sec. 8. C. H. Dahl, northwest; A. Barstad, southwest; A. Anderson, southeast; Mr. Conrad, northeast. There is also a school house in this section.

Sec. 10. P. Eliason, southwest; E. T. Hamre, southeast; A. Christianson, northeast.

Sec. 11. Has a school house near the center.

Sec. 12. F. Stroschem, northwest; Jas. Wardrop, southeast; T. Bell, northeast.

Sec. 14. J. Johnson, northeast; A. Miro, southwest. J. W. Blake has the northwest.

Sec. 15. A Slette in northeast.

Sec. 16. J. Medboe, 80 in southeast; O. O. Reinholt, in northwest.

Sec. 18. Ole Hattestad, southwest; M. T. Ness, northwest.

Sec. 22. H. J. Meilke, northwest; J. Krog, southwest; J. A. Smith, northeast, C. Peterson, southeast.

Sec. 24. J. C. Lines, southwest.

Sec. 26. J. J. Hunziker, east half; C. Kartowitz, east half west half; F. G. Stroschein, Jr., west half of west half.

Sec. 28. J. McDonald, south quarter; J. C. Gray, 320 acres, west.

Sec. 30. Jas. Galbraeth, northeast; John Bonniman, northwest; Robt. Chalmers, southeast, J. C. Townsend, 80 in southwest.

Sec. 31. John D. Smith, southwest.

Sec. 32. Robt. Cummings, northwest; Wm. Stewart, southwest; John McLellan, northeast; Thos. Chalmers, southeast. There is a school house on north line of 32.

Sec. 34. Jas. Cruikshank, 240 in northwest; Jas. Robertson, southwest, Geo. Russell, southeast.

Sec. 36. P. Schlemmer has a farm in this section, the rest is school land.

The last assessed valuation of Lucas was \$54,140.

There are three school districts in Lucas. Dist. No. 19 embraces sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. It had 34 pupils by last school report. Dist. No. 15 embraces sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18. It has 19 pupils reported. The rest of the town is in district No. 41. Each district has a school house.

The projected line of the Duluth, North Shore & Southwestern R. R. runs through the town from north to south.

## TOWN OF VALLERS.

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The town of Vallers is town 113, range 41, and is bounded north by Yellow Medicine county, east by Lucas, south by Fairview and west by Westerheim.

The first settlement in Vallers was made by Johannes Anderson on section 6 in 1869.

The town was surveyed early, but the surveyor neglecting to make proper moninds, the stakes were mostly burned down by prairie fires, and settlement in the town was, without doubt, delayed considerably by the fact that the section corners could not be found.

In 1872 Ole O. Brenna Sr., Michael Knudson and A. Malde located farms, and in 1873 N. L. Jones, N. M. Fiske, Isaac Olsen and perhaps one or two others took up government land in the town, and efforts were made to get an organization. It could not be effected, however, till 1876 when the first town officers were elected at an election held in O. Brenna's house. They were, S. W. Laythe, chairman; John Anderson and M. K. Snortum, supervisors; Ole O. Brenna Jr. clerk and justice; Ole O. Brenna Sr. assessor.

The report that the first school was taught by J. L. Robinson is incorrect in the sense of a public school. He taught a private school on his claim in 1879 for the benefit of his brother's and sister's children. The first public school was taught by Miss Lavina Day in 1880. A school house was built the same year on the north line of section 29.

Church services were first held in 1877 at the house of Ole O. Brenna by Rev. Knud Thorstenson, a Lutheran, and a church society was soon after organized.

The first birth was John Anderson in 1872. The first marriage was that of Ole O. Brenna Jr. and Anna Olson, Dec. 23, 1877. The first death was that of Ole J. Engen in August 1877.

The only postoffice in the town is at Ole O. Brenna's on section 4. It was established soon after the settlement of Mr. O. Brenna, who has been postmaster since its establishment. The name of the office, by some misspelling, became Brenner and so remains.

The name of the town has undergone a similar change, probably from the same cause. The Norwegian word Vala, meaning a valley, was intended for it, given by the O. Brennas, we understand. But as the name was not plainly written or properly spelled it was thought to be Vallers, and so named. To one familiar with the topography of the town the appropriateness of the name does not instantly appear. Drained by Three Mile Creek on the south line and the Yellow Medicine on the north, the town of Vallers occupies the high land between these two water courses, and is about as far removed from a valley as any point in the county. The name may however have been intended as a reminder of some vala in Norway.

The town of Vallers is a town of exceptionally good soil. Everything that grows in Minnesota will do well here.

There were in 1883 1,115 acres under cultivation of which 773 were wheat; 283 oats; 85 corn 19 barley.

There were at the same time 53 acres of cultivated trees and 240 rods on highways.

Vallers has two organized school districts. The northwest quarter of the township constitutes No. 56, with 19 pupils reported. There is a school house on section 8. The southwest quarter of the town forms district No. 48, with 11 pupils reported. School house on section 29. The east half of the town is not yet organized.

The last assessed valuation of the town is \$29,782.

The town has at present no trading point, Marshall being its market town; but the proposed railroad line from Duluth to Yankton will undoubtedly give the town a station at or near its southeast corner.

The Yellow Medicine river cuts the northwest corner of the town and Three Mile Creek makes a bend into its south tier of sections.

On section 29 and adjoining sections there is a large marsh, called the Big Slough, which is the home of thousands of water fowl and the resort of sports men in proper season.

Considerable state land, mostly university land, is still vacant in the town, and the Southern Minnesota R. R. Company have some sections there still u

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sold. These make a vacant tract of country through the central and eastern portions that the inhabitants would like to see settled. The town of Vallers is settled mostly by Norwegians, who are, as a general thing, thriflily located in comfortable homes and on good farms. There are one or two Iceland families here, and in the south part of the township a few Americans have taken farms. The settlers are located as follows:

Section 2, se G. O. Aamat; sw H. Olson; nw A. S. Malde.

Section 4, n $\frac{1}{4}$  E. Varpnes; se M. Knudson; sw Ole O. Brenna Sr.

Section 6, e $\frac{1}{2}$  ne Andrew O. Anderson; nw John Anderson; sw Ole Anderson; se O. A. Anderson.

Section 8, e $\frac{1}{2}$  sw T. Tostensen; se O. J. Ullen; ne Ole O. Brenna Jr.

Section 12, nw E. S. Roti; se J. Roti.

Section 18, sw I. Olsen; nw M. Osnes.

Section 20, nw O. H. Miller; sw C. O. Hovde; ne S. Thon; se R. Haaskjold.

Section 22, nw K. Swenson; ne Ole Lende.

Section 26, ne H. Solberg; n $\frac{1}{2}$  se H. W. Throop; s $\frac{1}{2}$  se A. Baldwin; nw J. L.

Robinson.

Section 28, n $\frac{1}{2}$  S. H. Thorsness.

Section 30, ne Ole E. Borthus; nw M. O'Tool.

Section 32, sw N. L. Jones; se N. M. Fisk.

Section 34, sw Cox Brothers; e $\frac{1}{2}$  Langdon farm.

During the Indian war of 1862 some of the skirmishing, it is thought, extended into this locality, as a skeleton was dug up on section 34 some two or three years ago which was supposed to be that of a soldier. A mask thought to be once a soldier's cap rested over the face, and other signs convinced the finders that it was the skeleton of one of the scouts or soldiers of the Indian war.

Section 34 has been a historic section in Vallers, and has furnished much material for gossip among the denizens of that "valley." N. B. Langdon took up the east half of the section several years ago, opening thereon the "Brookfield farm," stocked it with fine sheep, erected good buildings and made the farm famous as a sheep farm. There was not much domestic harmony, however, between Mr. and Mrs. Langdon, and the latter was one day found dead with chloroform in the room. No especial reason was ever discovered for the step at that time, but the coroner's jury brought in a verdict of suicide. This shocking event gave rise to much talk in the town and out of it. Mr. Langdon from that time fell into habits of dissipation, from which he had for several years kept free, and the stock farm began to lose its fame through neglect and bad management. A short time after the suicide of his wife Langdon went to St. Paul, and while there married a Mrs. Farrington. This mar-

riage was not a happy one. Langdon repented of it before the week was out, and returned to Vallery alone, where his new wife soon followed him, determined not to be shaken off from her husband and her acquired interest in the Brookfield farm. A domestic fight that became the talk of the country ensued and ended every night, like a Ledger story; with a "To be continued." Mrs. Langdon was a woman of remarkable grit, and dared death and destruction for her rights, sticking to the farm through threats of everything terrible and some actual assault and battery, out of which grew law suits, and finally ~~desertion~~ of the field by Langdon and peaceable possession by Mrs. L. except by law suits to exclude her. The farm was stripped of everything saleable, and the Brookfield stock farm is now but an episode of history.

## TOWN OF WESTERHEIM.

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Westerheim is one of the north tier of towns, lying south of the line of Yellow Medicine county and bounded east by Vanners, south by Grandview, west by Nordland. By government survey it is town 113, range 42.

The town is watered by the Yellow Medicine river which runs into the town from the west and flows across the town, going out at the northeast corner.

The town is well watered by this and the small water courses that lead into it, and it is one of the best tracts in the county for either grazing, dairying or general agriculture. Though it has several miles of river there is no native timber except one large cottonwood on section 19, a land mark known as the lone tree. There was another similar tree on section 8, but it fell a sacrifice to hard times during the blockade and fuel famine of 1881.

The first settlement was made by Halvor A. Nyland in 1871 on section 30. The same year Thorbjørn Aadson settled on the same section.

No town organization was effected till 1876, the first election being held at the house of P. Johnson May 9th of that year. The first town officers were Halvor Nyland, chairman; O. J. Moe and Hans Samuelson, supervisors; O. L. Orsen, clerk; Andrew Lee treasurer; Thorbjørn Huso, assessor; John Istad and H. P. Johnson, justices; R. Hanson and T. Opdahl, constables.

In June 1874 the first marriage, a double one, was celebrated, H. A. Nyland and Inger Olson, and T. A. Huso and Carrie Olson being the parties most interested. Mr. Nyland's wife died in September of the same year, being the first death in the town. The first birth was a daughter to John Istad in 1873.

No public school was taught in the town till 1877 when Knud Fodnes taught a term.

The nearest railroad station and trading point to Westerheim is Minneota.

Prior to the taking of several sections of railroad land in this town by Bishop Ireland for the use of his Minnesota colony the settlement of Westerheim was almost exclusively Scandinavian, mostly from Norway. Some Icelanders have settled in the town, and in the south and southeast portions a few Americans, Belgian and French have located homes.

There are now two organized school districts. All of the east half of the township except sections 34, 35, 36 constitute school district No. 3, with a reported scholarship of 47. District No. 54 is formed of sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29 with 27 pupils. The school officers of the district are Snori Hognason, director; O. L. Orsen, treasurer; O. I. Leeland, clerk. Both districts have built school houses, and the educational interests of the town are properly looked after.

District No. 3 has a school house on section 11 which is 18 by 24, seated with the Racine perforated seats. Capacity 40 pupils. District organized in 1877. Present eurolled scholarship, 41.

The name of the town, meaning Western home, was very appropriately chosen by a people who appreciated the word home, and who saw in the fertile acres of the town the requisites of successful farm life. There are many thrifty farms in the town, and good buildings, which indicate that the settlers have come to stay.

The assessor's report of 1883 gives the town 2,905 acres under cultivation, of which there are 1,607 in wheat, 514 oats, 208 corn, 528 barley, 26 potatoes, 22 flax. There were by same report 70 acres of cultivated trees, 415 rods set on highways.

The last assessed valuation of Westerheim was \$39,236.

Its present town officers are Ole L. Orsen, chairman; J. C. Rogde and Snori Hognason, supervisors; Ole I. Leeland, clerk; Oluf L. Orsen, treasurer; O. J. Moe, assessor; Geo. Richardson and Ole I. Leeland, justices; Wm. Marshall and Elling Oxaas, constables.

Westerheim's present residents are located as follows:

Section 2, ne K. J. Hall; se S. Sigurson; sw Ole Thompson; nw K. T. Thompson.

Section 4, ne C. Johnson; se E. J. Oxaas; sw John Peterson; nw S. Hognason.

Section 8, nw M. Oliver; sw Oluf Orson; e $\frac{1}{2}$  Joseph Josephson.

Section 10, w $\frac{1}{2}$  Andrew Hellickson; w $\frac{1}{2}$  e $\frac{1}{2}$  S. Johnathanson; e $\frac{1}{2}$  e $\frac{1}{2}$  B. Gilleson.

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Section 12, sw K. Broughton; e $\frac{1}{2}$  nw and w $\frac{1}{2}$  ne Hans Samuelson; ne Henry Samuelson.

Section 14, ne John Stensrud; se E. Fjeldstad; w $\frac{1}{2}$  se and e $\frac{1}{2}$  sw G. Johnson; nw G. Peterson.

Section 16, nw E. Bjornson.

Section 17, sw Walter Walsh.

Section 18, se 80 Lars Orson; rest of east half, Ole L. Orson; sw O. J. Moe.

Section 20, nw B. L. Leeland, s $\frac{1}{2}$  H. P. Johnson; ne O. I. Leeland.

Section 22, n $\frac{1}{2}$  nw E. Cassidy; s $\frac{1}{2}$  nw W. Sanden; ne Alex DeWitt.

Section 24, ne Chris Johnson.

Section 26, se Wm. Marshall.

Section 28, nw J. C. Rogde; sw F. DeRen.

Section 30, n $\frac{1}{4}$  H. Aadson Nyland; s $\frac{1}{2}$  ne R. Hanson; se Ole O. Skogen; s $\frac{1}{2}$  nw J. Ihstad; sw A. DeZutter.

Section 32, nw R. Hanson; sw Andrew Lee; se Opdahl.

Section 34, nw D. Van de Norstyne; sw Andrew Opdahl; se Van Halsbeck.

Near center of east line of section 8 the Yellow Medicine river is spanned by a truss bridge 128 feet long. This bridge was built by L. Jacobson. Funds were appropriated by the state legislature in 1883, under supervision of O. L. Orsen, O. I. Leeland and Snorri Hognason.

O. L. Orsen has on his farm in section 18 a flowing well, perhaps the only artesian well in the county. It is, however, but ten feet deep, and the water was found after boring through a stratum of soapstone underlying six or seven feet of blue clay. The water is strongly tinctured with iron it is said.

## TOWN OF STANLEY.

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Stanley, which is town 112, range 40, is bounded east by Redwood county, and north by the town of Lucas. It is a prairie country, having very little timber. A few trees are scattered along the two rivers which unite in Stanley, and a part of the grove on the south shore of Swan Lake, which lies on the eastern line, runs over into this town. But, as in all thrifty prairie towns, the settlers of Stanley have given considerable attention to the cultivation of forest trees, and substantial young groves that are full of future promise, can now be seen in all parts of the town.

The assessor's report for year 1883 gives 81 acres of forest trees planted. This is not as large an acreage as is shown by Lucas or Fairview, but perhaps the assessor was weaker in addition than those of Stanley's sister towns. An assessor with a keen vision and healthy imagination is an invaluable assistant in a town's statistics.

The reports of the United States census takers demonstrate that the estimates of local assessors are uniformly too low, and that the towns are, as a rule, better off than the statistics make them.

Stanley's agricultural statistics for the year 1883 show a total acreage under cultivation of 2,175, of which 1,259 were in wheat, 512 in oats, 224 in corn, 134 in barley, 18 in potatoes, 14 in timothy, 12 in flax. This was an increase over 1882 of 483 acres for total cultivation. The last average yield of wheat reported is between 14 and 15 bushels per acre; oats, nearly 40; corn, a fraction over 17; barley, about 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; potatoes, 140, flax about 10.

The town had in the spring of 1883, 101 cows, and 120 sheep yielding 540 pounds of wool.

The settlement of Stanley dates back to December 1867 when T. W. Caster located on section 24. His son Hugh was born in 1868 and was the first birth in the town. Daniel Munro settled on section 12 in 1870. In 1876 a town organization was effected, and an election ordered in September. The town was at this time named Delavan. This name was changed to Stanley, and an election had March 12, 1878, at which time the first town officers were elected as follows:

F. B. Patterson, chairman; C. A. Knox and C. H. Currie, supervisors; D. T. Ludwig, clerk; Edward Wilson, assessor; S. C. Knox, treasurer; Duncan McKinley and Edward Wilson, justices; Thomas Savage, constable.

The first sermon preached in the town was by Rev. E. Wilson, a Methodist, at Mr. Currie's, July 13, 1873, nearly seven years after the first settlement of the town. It is said that Caster and his neighbors during those seven years had grown lax in Sunday observance and were greatly in need of religious instruction.

The first school was taught by Ann Munro at the house of James White in the summer of 1875, school district No. 29 having been organized the fall before. The school house was built in 1880.

Ceresco postoffice, with Caster as postmaster, was established in 1872. It is now discontinued.

The first marriage was Daniel Munro and Ann White, November 12, 1874.

The first death was Charles Knox, November 1876.

The assessed valuation of the town in 1883 was, personal property, \$5,823; real estate \$30,845.

The town of Stanley is one of uniformly good agricultural lands, free from swamp or stony ridges, and almost every section is well adapted to general farming and grazing purposes. The hay lands of Stanley are very valuable and ample for the needs of the town.

The town is well watered by the Redwood River and Three Mile Creek, the two uniting in section 17. The Redwood runs across the town from west to east.

Swan Lake is on the eastern edge, touching sections 1 and 12. The lake is mostly in Redwood county. It is a beautiful lake with wooded shores and a favorite resort for sportsmen and picnic parties.

There are three organized school districts in Stanley; the northeast quarter of the town being No. 34, in which 14 pupils are reported; the northwest quarter No. 29, with 18 pupils; the southwest quarter and sections 22, 27, and 34

No 16, with 15 pupils. The rest of the town is not yet organized. There are school houses in sections 12, 8 and 28.

The residents of Stanley or those owning houses there are distributed as follows

Section 1, nw J. McFagen.

Section 2, e $\frac{1}{2}$  J. White; sw Munro; nw John Garry,

Section 4, ne W. Stewart; se T. McKinley; nw D. McKinley.

Section 6, ne Geo. Michie; sw J. Glashen; nw G. Lowe.

Section 8, sw J. F. Gibb; se W. T. Neill; n $\frac{1}{2}$  James Dick.

Section 10, sw James Garry; se J. Russell.

Section 12, s $\frac{1}{2}$  R. Cavanagh; nw John Noble.

Section 14, e $\frac{1}{2}$  C. H. Currie; sw T Savage and E. Basler.

Section 15, nw W. Warake and H. Wenholz.

Section 18, se Mrs. G. Palmer; sw Mrs Heskett and Mrs. Knox.

Section 19, nw H. G. Heilman; sw R. Heilman.

Section 20, nw N. Wasson; sw H. Lovelace; ne C. A. Knox.

Section 22, s $\frac{1}{2}$  Geo. Camp and Fred Beltz.

Section 24, center, Mrs. W. Wilson.

Section 26, ne P. Kenndy; se Geo. Bissett.

Section 28, ne D. H. Tiehnor; nw S. S. Knox; sw C. E. Patterson.

Section 30, n $\frac{1}{2}$  Wm. Rich; se T. D. Ludwig; sw Chas. Kennedy.

Section 32, nw Chas. Higbee; ne H. J. Sprague.

Section 34, sw D. N. Mason.

The population of Stanley is mostly of Scotch descent in the north half of the town, and Ameriean in the south half. In thrit, enterprise, general intelligence, and ail the requisite social and moral qualities, the people of Stanley are second to those of no town in the west.

Marshall is the postofcice and trading point for Stanley at present; though the town has railroad prospeets that may in the near future give the town one or more railroad station and the advantages that go with such acquisitions. The preliminary survey of the branch line of the Rock Island company indicated that Stanley would probably be one of the towns passed through and the Duluth, North Shore & Southwestern company's line from St. Cloud, via Wilmar and Marshall to Pipestone and Yankton will very likely cut across a part of the town.

But with or without any other railroad facilities than those now furnished at Marshall, the town of Stanley offers an attractive field to those looking for farm homes. With unsurpassed soil, rich meadows, rivers and lake attractions there can be little said in praise of any township of the county that cannot be said of Stanley. Its future as a rich agricultural town is as unquestioned as the tuture of the state.

## TOWN OF FAIRVIEW.

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Fairview lies six miles from both the east and north lines of the county, being in town 112, range 41. It is bounded on the north by Vallery, east by Stanley, south by Lake Marshall and west by Grandview.

The town was first settled in 1870 by Wm. S. Reynolds who moved here from Pa. Joseph Carter settled in the town about the same time. The next year J. W. Elliott, Seth Johnson, Richard Blake, John Hanlon, R. C. Beach, O. Marron, W. C. Robinson, John Brown, F. D. Wasson, M. Atherton, R. Henshaw, Henry Gibbs and H. G. Howard settled in 1873. This gave the town the character of a thrifty settlement, and inspired the desire for organization, which was effected in 1873, the first election being held at the house of J. W. Elliott. The following ticket was elected, constituting the first officers of Fairview:

Harmon Lovelace, chairman and justice; John W. Elliott and C. M. Johnson, supervisors; John Buchanan, clerk and justice; B. C. Emery, assessor; O. Marron, treasurer; W. S. Reynolds and A. Williams, constables.

With the organization of the town came also church and school organization. Rev. Geo Spaulding settled here in 1873 and gave religious services at his house. The first school was taught by Ada Kennedy in 1874 in a granary belonging to Thos. Lindsey.

These were years of comparative prosperity and gilt-edged hope, and the settlers who came here came to found homes for the future. The first marriage was that of Walter Woodruff and Julia Lovelace; the first birth, Walter

Reynolds, in April 1871; and the first death that of Mary Gibbs, mother of Henry Gibbs, in December 1871 at the age of 90 years. There have been many marriages and births since but very few deaths. The death of Henry Gibbs occurred in the winter of 1874 as the result of being lost in a blizzard. He and his wife were visiting at a neighbor's house, and started home in the evening with an ox team. On the way home a blizzard suddenly arose, and the party soon lost their way and drifted with the storm over into Stanley, where they ran into a slough and broke down. The only thing then possible to do was to fix as much of a wind break as possible with the wagon box and wait for daylight. Daylight came, but the blizzard still raged, and raged through the day and night following as only the storms of the northwest can rage. When it sufficiently cleared to see the way, Mr. Gibbs made out to reach a house and send a party for his wife, who was rescued and recovered with no serious loss except the partial amputation of a foot. Mr. Gibbs however, had been so badly frozen that he soon died.

Fairview, as its name implies, is a beautiful prairie township which, especially in early summer, spreads out a landscape of loveliness nowhere else equalled but on the green, rolling prairies, and under the clear atmosphere of Minnesota.

Its soil is of the richest in the west, and among its thirty-six sections there is scarcely a waste acre. When its fertile lands are all settled and improved it will be one of the richest agricultural townships in the west.

It is watered by the Redwood river, which runs in a northerly direction into the town to near the center, when it turns east and runs into Stanley; also by Three Mile Creek, which by a large bend into Vailers cuts the northwest and northeast corners of Fairview, also running out into to Stanley. There are a few trees along the streams, but nothing that deserves the name of timber. The fuel supply of the town is obtained at Marshall, except on two or three farms where cultivated timber has grown large enough to be used for fuel. Timber culture in Fairview has been thriftily attended to, and the last assessor's report gives the town 132 acres of growing timber. There are several very fine groves.

In 1883 there were 3,962 acres under cultivation, of which there were 1,976 of wheat, 1,060 oats, 569 corn, 286 barley, 43 potatoes, 4 flax.

There were by same report 109 cows, and 202 sheep yielding 1,040 pounds of wool.

There are two organized school districts in Fairview. The northeast quarter of the town and sections 22, 23, 24, constitute No. 26, school house in northwest quarter of section 14. Number of scholars reported, 19. The

northwest quarter of the town and sections 20 and 21 make No. 27, with school house on the north line of section 17; 22 scholars reported. The south two tiers of sections, except section 30 are in Marshall independent district No. 8.

The settlers of Fairview are mostly Americans and intellectual thrifty farmers, who are prospering and building up handsome and comfortable homes. The present residents or those owning houses are distributed as follows:

Section 2 is entirely owned by the Weymouth family, D. F. Weymouth having a house on the northeast quarter.

Section 3, s<sub>2</sub> D. Alexander.

Section 4, ne M. P. Jewett; nw Cox Bros.; sw H. Edwards.

Section 6, ne R. C. Beach; se J. L. Gee.

Section 7, ne C. L. Wiley; se Philip Rue.

Section 8, nw A. Paul; sw Neill; se O. Marron; ne Mrs. Meacham.

Section 10, nw A. and B. Hanlon; ne G. M. Robinson; se W. C. Robinson.

Section 11, Rev. Graves.

Section 12, s<sub>2</sub> nw O. F. Walter; sw I. Lindsey.

Section 14, ne B. C. Emery; nw I. Lindsey; sw and s<sub>2</sub> se Alex. and D. D.

Section 15, Whitney & Keith.

Forbes.

Section 17, se F. J. Parker.

Section 18, n<sub>2</sub> ne J. Hanlon; s<sub>2</sub> ne M. Hanlon; se H. Smith; sw J. A. Hunter; nw R. Blake.

Section 20, n<sub>2</sub> J. W. Dickey; se H. G. Howard.

Section 21, sw Kinney; w<sub>2</sub> se W. P. Thayer; e<sub>2</sub> ne L. K. Thayer.

Section 22, ne J. Brown and R. Henshaw; sw F. D. Wasson.

Section 24, ne W. D. Lovelace and D. T. Hance.

Section 26, sw John Cummings.

Section 27 s<sub>2</sub> Jas. Lawrence.

Section 28, ne E. C. Pierce; se M. Potter; sw Rev. Spalding; nw A. C. Forbes.

Section 30, ne A. Baldwin; nw Seth Johnson; sw D. Thomas; se L. Tichnor.

Section 32, ne E. B. Jewett; se E. A. Edwards; s<sub>2</sub> sw Mrs. Coleman.

Section 34, nw J. W. Elliott; se W. S. Reynolds.

Section 36, se 120 in w<sub>2</sub> E. O. Barnard.

Considerable railroad land has been sold in Fairview, and a good deal of land is under cultivation that has no buildings on it.

The last assessed valuation of Fairview was, personal, \$1,2842; real, \$66,935.

## CATHOLIC COLONY OF GHENT.

TOWNS OF GRANDVIEW, WESTERHEIM AND VALLERS.

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The first question asked by Catholics intent one migration is whether or no they can receive the consolations of their religion.

After starting his colonies, Right Rev. Bishop Ireland of St. Paul met those wishes, and attracted to our state many rich and moral people. In order to organize divine worship, the enterprising bishop tries to put the Catholics all together, and also he enables them to support their priests and build churches.

In Lyon county he reserved the five northwest townships for Catholics. He made from Nordland and Eidsvold the colony of Minneota for the Irish and English people: and from Grandview, Westerheim, and Vallers the colony of Ghent for the Flemish and Canadian people. Here we will speak for the latter colony.

It was only in 1881 that the colonists began to arrive in Ghent. Over the immeasurable ocean lies a small land the most thickly settled and the best cultivated in the world. It is the kingdom of Belgium. No larger than 10 counties of Minnesota it contains nearly 6,000,000 inhabitants, 462 in a square mile! so that on an average each Belgian should not have two acres of land. Every spot of land is cultivated with extreme care, and whole Belgium seems to be the agricultural garden of Europe.

But such a dense population makes great concurrence amongst the laborers. Heavy rents and taxes are to be paid, and manure, weeding and toiling are very expensive.

The enticing pamphlets about the Catholic colonies reached those active people. Many were moved on hearing from that immense fertile prairie land which claims willing hands to become very fertile. But the old people, feeling themselves very comfortable at home, do not move as quickly as the bold Americans. There came about 50 Belgian families, and others are preparing to follow.

The pioneer of all these settlers was Mr. Angel VanHee. He was conducted here by Right Rev. Bishop Ireland and by his brother canon Peter VanHee, a well informed man living in Liverpool. He was so much pleased with the appearance of the soil of Ghent that he made immediately his choice on the very land where he is now living. Though he traveled through the whole country, he did not find a better place; and he bought half a section. Immediately he hired more than 20 teams, and before starting he saw 100 acres broken. Then he went to Flanders, a county of Belgium, to get his wife and nine children, and to give good information to his friends. Returning, he built a large farm house, which still remains the largest of the country.

Meanwhile, to attract the Flemish people as to a new Flanders, the former name of the village of Grandview was changed to the name of the old city of Flanders, Ghent.

The family of Mr. VanHee, Mr. David VanHee and the widow of Mr. Modest VanHee, bought large tracts of land, and built fine store houses in European style. Mr. De Zutter took half a section of land; Mr. Vandewoestyne, Mr. Decock and Messrs. Vergote and Foulon bought improved farms of 160 acres.

In January 1883 Father Cornelis, pastor of Minnesota, went to Belgium and Holland and gave lectures on the colony of Ghent. Many were moved. With him came Father Y. Deves, who was appointed pastor of Ghent; Mr. J. Lambert, several farmers Mr. Prineen, who purchased an improved farm near town; Messrs. Schepels, Harts, Moreens, Depuydt, Messine, Dicken, Sandy and they all settled on large farms, and built comfortable houses. Messrs. Chrysostomus, Vanda Bergende, Creeliez, Baumanns, Delmeale, Hardick, Rijckie, have been looking around till now for other business.

Nearly every week there were new-comers buying railroad land or improved farms; for instance, Meers, Herse, VandenAbeele, VanSprundel, Vankelen, Engels, Debieeldere, Blanwette, Brouwers. Mr. Maenhoudt has moved to Marshall to rent an improved farm. There is now an impulse given, and many more will come, provided the emigrants continue to enjoy this country.

Meanwhile there was rapid immigration of French Canadians from Kaska-ke Co., Ill. Finding themselves too thickly settled in that state, those courageous people were looking around not only in Minnesota, but also in Iowa

and Dakota, but they preferred our state. Two energetic men, Mr. Letourneau, and Mr. Regnier, came during the summer 1882. They traveled through some southwestern counties, especially through Pipestone, and finally preferred the colony of Ghent.

Immediately they bought a great quantity of land, and acted with such activity that in 1882 they had more than 3,000 acres of R. R. land, and 1,000 acres more in the following summer of 1883.

Mr. Letourneau became agent of the depot, and his oldest son agent of the elevator for Mr. Van Dusen; his two other sons purchased land near the town. Mr. Paradis bought a store house and 240 acres of land; his sons, Amilien and Cyrille, 240 acres; his nephews, Suprenant-Lord and Lord Paradis, more than half a section; Messrs. Antony Paradis, Suprenant-Prairie and Metty entered large improved farms. Mr. Regnier and son bought nearly a section; Mr. Carron has 400 acres; Mr. Lebeau now has 320, and both built a large and handsome farm house in American style. Mr. Padnaud has 80 acres; Mr. Duchene, Mr. Nevell, Mr. Emilion Suprenant each 160; Mr. Carron has 200 acres in Vallery. Some others have bought land and are expected next spring.

The arrival of these people in spring was very encouraging. They filled a whole train, several freight cars and a coach. There were furniture, horses and cattle enough to provide a whole township. There were about 50 persons and more than one Illinois horse for every one.

We have also some Irish Catholics, Messrs. Cavanagh, Ford, Cassidy, etc. and some Germans, as Messrs. Schreiber, Haerts, etc. The arrival of these new-comers was saluted with favor by all intelligent Americans as being a great benefit for the country, for they brought in a good deal of money; they raised the value of property; and they gave occasion to sell improved farms dearer than anywhere on the prairies of Minnesota. Hence they were always welcomed among the old settlers and treated by nearly all like brothers.

The village though young and small is very thriving, having a depot and an elevator: Mr. Soucheray has a stock of general merchandise, and Mr. Emilion Paradis has also established a store. Mr. Gets has a hotel and a tinware shop; Mr. Vergote has a blacksmith shop; Mr. Cool is a carpenter and wagon maker; and Messrs. Lebeau, Paradis and Carron were well-known carpenters in Chicago; Mr. Angel Van Hee and Mr. F. Gets are preparing a brickyard for next summer. Brick making is very well known among the Flemish, who all live in brick houses in their fatherland.

The first house of worship was a Methodist chapel which still remains. There are nearly three hundred Catholics around Ghent, but as new-comers they cannot afford to build a church immediately. They are preparing to build a

large church next summer. The gentlemen of the town have already given a concert to provide church furniture. They are preparing a new one, mostly in English, so that everybody can understand them.

Since June 1883 Rev. Father Y. Devos has been among them. They are so assiduous to divine offices that they attend not only the sacrifice of the mass, but also the vespers, coming twice to the meeting every Sunday. They feel very happy when then they can relish the ceremonies of their old religion. Two very good musicians, Mr. Foulon and Mr. Vergote, furnish good singing during the services. There are few congregations where so many languages are spoken. When he addresses the people the pastor has to speak Flemish French, English and German. The Latin used in divine office is the only common language which is generally understood by all. As soon as they hear the Latin language, which they heard in their younger days and in their distant fatherland, they feel themselves at home in their old church, and they are very happy to see and hear the pious ceremonies of their worship.

There is now a bad organization of the school districts. We have three district schools, but the nearest school house is more than two miles from town. Very zealous for instruction, Father Devos erected a free school in town. It is taught by Miss Hanna Lester from England, and not only the children but grown persons go to school to learn the English language, so as to be able to converse with their American neighbors. In their love for instruction the county commissioners are ready to make better arrangements for the public schools of Ghent.

We hope in a few years to make of Ghent a thriving and happy city, a new home as joyous as we left in our fatherland.

REV. Y. DEVOS.

## THE NORWEGIAN MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

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The Norwegian Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Eidsvoid, Lyon Co., Minnesota was organized February 22d, 1879, at the house of Guller Peterson, on section 14 in town of Westerheim, Lyon Co. Articles of incorporation and by-laws previously prepared by Mr. E. K. Kjorness and Mr. Ole L. Orsen were then unanimously adopted and signed by 28 persons, who collectively owned property to the amount of \$27,500, which they desired to have insured.

The first board of directors were E. K. Kjorness, president; Ole L. Orsen, secretary; I. L. Kolhei, treasurer; Ole Brusven, T. S. Norgaard, H. T. Oakland and E. Bergman, directors.

In 1880 the company commenced business, each member paying \$2 for membership and 25 cents for each one hundred dollars insured, to pay losses occasioned by fire or lightning, and in case of a heavy loss an assessment will be made on the insured property every member to pay his pro rata share of all losses and all necessary expenditures.

The territory of the company is composed of 12 townships as follows: Eidsvoid, Nordland, Westerheim, Vallers, Grandview and Lucas in Lyon Co., and the towns of Swede Prairie, Normania, Sannes, Hazelton, Friendship and Tyro in Yellow Medicine Co. This company has been very successful from its organization up to the present date, as shown in the following annual reports for the last 4 years past:

For the year ending Dec. 31, 1880 Number of members 57, policies in force 57, amount insured thereby \$57,426.00.

## LYON COUNTY.

Received from members during the year,	\$192.65
Losses incurred and paid R. Ivenson and S. John- athanson on stables; cause, prairie fire,	\$23.00
All other expenses,	91.76
Balance on hand,	77.89
	<hr/>
	\$192.65
	\$192.65
Dec. 31, 1881. Members 74, policies 74, amount of insurance in force	
\$71,381.	
Receipts for the year,	\$114.00
Balance in treasury from previous year,	77.89
Losses incurred and paid G. Torberg and Knud Kjorness 1 cow and 1 heifer; cause lightning,	\$41.00
All other expenditures,	53.47
Balance on hand,	98.29
	<hr/>
	\$192.76
	\$192.76
Dec. 31, 1882. Numbers of members 96, policies 96, total amount of insur- ance \$86,060.	
Received during the year,	\$217.25
Cash from previous year,	98.29
Losses incurred and paid, K. Thompson, one horse,	\$100.00
All other expenditures,	70.78
Balance in cash,	144.76
	<hr/>
	\$315.54
	\$315.54
Annual report, Dec. 31, 1883. Number of members 112, policies in force 112, amount of insurance in force \$105,477.	
Receipts for the the year,	\$313.19
Balance from previous year,	144.76
Losses paid, S. Hognason and A. Lee, stables,	\$59.00
All other expenditures,	63.90
Balance in treasury Jan. 1, 1884,	335.05
	<hr/>
	\$457.95
	\$457.95

In 1881 the money received for membership and 8 cents per 100 dollars measured paid all loss and expense.

In 1882 the receipts for membership and 15 cents per 100 dollars settled all loss and expense for that year.

In 1883 the money received from membership and 12 cents [per 100 dollars settled all claims against the company for that year.

The present board of directors is as follows: E. K. Kjorness, president; Ole L. Orsen, secretary; I. L. Kolhei, treasurer; O. Simundson, S. Hognason, H. B. Nilsen, Ole Johnson, directors.

## TOWN OF CLIFTON.

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Clifton is on the east side of the county, joining Redwood county, with Stanley north, Amoret south and Lake Marshall west. It is town 111, range 40. Its surface is all prairie with very little standing or running water. The outlet to Lake Marshall cuts the southwest corner, and is its only stream. On section 28 and some adjoining territory a rather swampy lake called Goose Lake is found, and constitutes the town's lake inventory. The prairie soil of Clifton, however, is unsurpassed for fertility, and its meadows and grazing lands are among the best in the county. While the town has no native timber, there are numerous thrifty groves of cultivated forest trees, some very fine, but a few years hence the monotony of prairie scenery will have disappeared in one of nature's pleasantest landscapes, prairie and grove combined. The lands of Clifton are almost free from waste pieces, and it will in time, when its coming rich farms are opened and improved, become one of Lyon county's best agricultural townships.

The first settlers who located homes in Clifton came in 1872. J. A. Dillman, a native Nova Scotia, who lives on section 20, took the first claim in June 1872, although he did not move his family there till the next May. He came from Hennepin county. In 1872, also, settlement was made on section 6 by R. D. Barnes and C. A. Cook, from Iowa, and G. P. Ladenburg, from Hennepin Co., on section 18. The next two or three years brought in several settlers, and the town was organized in 1876, the 100th birth year of the U. S. Like the naming of a new child the christening of Clifton was arrived at through much

discussion. The town first caught the name of Edenview, a name conceived with June landscapes and an active imagination as a basis, but through the more practical ideas of Christopher Dillman was changed to Clifton. This name of course, means a cliff town, and is appropriate for this town because there isn't anything that the most vivid ideality could distort into a cliff within twenty miles or so of it. The cliffs of Clifton are not a foot high, and raise rutabagas and wheat in immense quantities.

The first town meeting, Oct. 6, 1876, elected as the first town officers, A. J. Waite, chairman; G. P. Ladenburg and Christopher Dillman, supervisors; R. D. Barnes, clerk; J. A. Dillman, assessor; C. A. Cooke, treasurer; G. W. Mossman J. Lynn, justices; H. J. Newhouse and W. B. Franklin, constables.

Miss Ita Mead taught the first public school in the town in 1876. There are now three organized school districts with school buildings on sections 8, 11 and 23.

The first public religious services in the town at which preaching was done were conducted in 1875 by Rev. H. C. Simmons, a Congregational minister of Marshall, and a church society has since been organized there preaching being supplied from the church in Marshall. Services are still held in the school house.

In 1883 Clifton had reported 2,205 acres under plow: 1,115 wheat, 605 oats, 308 corn, 116 barley, 18 potatoes, 11 beans, 23 flax.

The vote of the town in 1882 was 31.

The inhabitants of Clifton can be found as follows:

Section 2, ne C. Marks; se C. J. Spong; sw Wm. Marks.

Section 3, H. C. Meehl.

Section 4, se G. Metzelder; sw B. Snyder.

Section 5, ne C. Rock.

Section 6, se C. A. Cook; w $\frac{1}{2}$  ne and e $\frac{1}{2}$  nw R. D. Barnes; w $\frac{1}{2}$  nw B. Grubb.

Section 8, nw H. J. Newhouse; nw P. L. Truax; se H. Mead,

Section 10, nw A. Adler and C. M. Gary; sw D. C. Ackerman; ne F. H. Fligge; se A. Mead.

Section 12, nw B. Hassinger; se W. Mossman; ne F. Rowley.

Section 14, se M. C. Humphrey; ne F. Bedbury.

Section 18, se G. P. Ladenburg; w $\frac{1}{2}$  J. Lynn.

Section 19, se J. Flemming.

Section 20, s $\frac{1}{2}$  J. A. Dillman; center  $\frac{1}{3}$  Christopher Dillman; n $\frac{1}{2}$  nw Geo. Dillman.

Section 22, nw G. W. Shaw; sw D. A. Keys; se J. Pierard.

Section 24, nw W. H. Dilly; sw G. W. Selover.

Section 26, ne J. Durkee; nw A. Minneseng and J. Freiheit.  
Section 28, ne F. Hawkins; s<sup>1</sup> L. Nichols.  
Section 30, sw J. B. Brown; n $\frac{1}{2}$  Seymour, Sabin & Co.  
Section 32, nw F. Shake; ne E. C. Knieff.  
Section 34, nw L. Nichols; sw J. C. Brown; se W. S. Rader.

## TOWN OF LAKE MARSHALL.

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This township, in which is located the village of Marshall, the county seat, is named from a lake which lies in the southeast part of the town. It is six miles west of Redwood county and twelve miles south of Yellow Medicine, and is town 111, range 41.

The town was the first organized town of the county, though its settlement is ante-dated by that of Lynd. The first settlement was made in 1869, W. H. Langdon, now of Lynd, locating a claim on section 8 in June of that year. C. H. Whitney and C. H. Upton located the same summer on section 4, the former on the southeast quarter, and the latter on the northeast quarter, both now embraced in the village incorporation. In the fall of '69 L. W. Langdon and his son, E. B. Langdon, located in the town, on sections 18 and 8 respectively. In 1870 the town gained several settlers, among whom were M. D. Morse, Oren Drake, Mrs. U. S. Stone, G. M. Durst, C. T. and Charles Bellingham, Josiah Clark and Geo. R. Welch. Of these first settlers Whitney, Upton, Drake, Durst, Bellingham and Clark are still residents of the town.

March 8, 1872, a town meeting to organize and elect officers was held at the house of C. H. Whitney and the following first officers of the town were elected:

Oren Drake, chairman; C. T. Bellingham and Noble Cuyle, supervisors; C. H. Whitney, clerk; S. M. Taylor, assessor; O. A. Drake, treasurer; W. H. Langdon and C. H. Whitney, justices; C. H. Upton and O. A. Drake constables.

This was a boom year for the town and county, the Winona & St. Peter rail-

road being built and operated to Marshall in 1872. The town site of Marshall was laid out in August this year by a company of the W. & St. P. surveyors, consisting of J. W. Blake, W. G. Ward, J. H. Jenkins and J. H. Stewart. The location chosen was in the central part of section 4, and the town assumed village proportions very rapidly, of which proper mention will be made in another place.

The Redwood river, named by the Indians from the cedar trees found on its banks near its junction with the Minnesota river, flows into the town from Lynd on section 7 and cuts sections 8 and 4, flowing out in a northerly direction into Fairview. Groves of timber and scattering trees lie along the Redwood in most of its very crooked passage through the town, and add very much to the generally attractive appearance of its prairie surface. The inlet to Lake Marshall, though a small stream, furnishes running water generally to the southern sections.

Lake Marshall, named after ex-Governor Marshall, is a beautiful little prairie lake lying in an oval shape in sections 25, 26 and 36. It is about half a mile wide by probably a mile and a half long, and has high banks on both shores, with an occasional tree to break the monotony and furnish shade for the pickerel and bullheads with which it abounds. The lake is not as deep as some of the lakes in the county, but it furnishes an attractive picnic ground, and is the almost constant resort of fishing and hunting parties, Sundays excepted, of course. At the head and foot of the lake meadows of the finest wild grasses in the west spread out for miles, making it a rich grazing field and supplying hay in greater abundance than is needed at present. These meadows, with the future growth of the country and better means of marketing, will become the richest portions of the town. They are dry enough to become tillable if desired, and have soil that is inexhaustible by any probable cultivation. The soil of the whole town, though perhaps more varied than some of the other towns, is of unsurpassed excellence, and will return large profits for good cultivation almost to a certainty. There are several large and very thrifty farms in the town, that would be a credit to any county. The acreage reported under cultivation in 1883 was not, however, very large, being but 1335, of which there were 750 in wheat, 579 in oats, 341 in corn, 93 in barley, 22 in potatoes, 60 in flax. There were also 120 acres of cultivated forest trees, and 600 rods of the same on the highways.

The houses of settlers in the town outside of the village of Marshall are located as follows:

- Section 2, ne J. W. Pike; se H. Hoyt; nw J. K. Johnson; sw Geo. Cook.
- Section 3, se J. B. Drew; sw W. Hyde.
- Section 5, se R. Spates.

## LYON COUNTY.

Section 6, ne R. F. Webster; se and nw Jas. Andrew; sw Geo. and B. Link.  
Section 7, part of Yonmans farm.  
Section 8, w $\frac{1}{2}$  J. Ward; e $\frac{1}{2}$  nw H. Freese; e $\frac{1}{2}$  sw J. Anderson; ne N. Cuyle; se T. King.  
Section 9, nw J. Scott.  
Section 10, nw J. W. Blake; ne J. S. Dewey; se S. Webster.  
Section 11, n $\frac{1}{2}$  T. Walker.  
Section 12, nw W. Wirt; sw W. G. Hunter; ne C. H. Richardson.  
Section 13, nw O. M. Fuller.  
Section 14, se A. Erickson; sw P. Quigley.  
Section 15, e $\frac{1}{2}$  John Berry.  
Section 16, ne D. Minnick; se W. Cashman; nw Geo. Link; sw J. Smith.  
Section 17, B. J. Heagle.  
Section 18, nw M. Pettibone; sw C. T. and Chas. Beltingham; se Geo. Cook.  
Section 19, nw Andrew Ham.  
Section 24, nw C. Skillings; s $\frac{1}{2}$  C. M. and A. Templeton.  
Section 26, nw and sw J. M. Burke, two houses.  
Section 27, n $\frac{1}{2}$  C. H. White.  
Section 28, ne L. D. Lewis; rest of section M. C. Niles' stock and dairy farm, two houses.  
Section 30, nw Geo. Orr.  
Section 32, n $\frac{1}{2}$  J. Clark; s $\frac{1}{2}$  nw F. S. Wetherbee; sw E. Brotherton.  
Section 34, n $\frac{1}{2}$  John Middleton; se G. R. Watkins.  
The first marriage in the town was that of Oren Drake and Mrs. U. S. Stone on Sept. 4th, 1872, Rev. R. Wait officiating.  
The first birth is said to have been a child of one of the Billings boys.  
The first death was that of the Fox family who were caught in the terrible blizzard of Jan. 8th, 1873.  
The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Fox, a little girl five or six years old and a young man, a nephew. They held a claim in Lynd, it is said the one Mr. Fezler now lives on, and had been to Redwood Falls on a visit. On their return they were overtaken by the storm on Thursday, and when further efforts at traveling became useless they unhitched their oxen, letting them take care of themselves, and turning over the wagon box tried to fix up a shelter. Such a shelter, however, was almost valueless in that kind of a storm, and they were soon drifted into the snow. When the storm abated on Saturday, they were found by Mr. Barnes near J. K. Johnson's and brought to Marshall. The young man and the little girl were dead and Mr. Fox was so badly frozen that he died on Monday. Mrs. Fox recovered. They were buried near the gravel pit, east of Mr. Wakeman's.

The first school was taught by Walter Wakeman in the winter of 1872 and '73 in a building used by W. M. Todd for a lumber office. The school had about 20 pupils.

The first sermon was preached by Rev. R. Wait in 1872 in a tent used week days for a saloon.

The history of Lake Marshall being very nearly connected with that of the village of Marshall, a more detailed account of its early events will be found in another chapter.

## TOWN OF EIDSVOLD.

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Eidsvold, town 113, range 13, is located in the northwest corner of the county, joining Yellow Medicine county on the north, Lincoln county on the west and the towns of Westerheim and Nordland on the east and south.

The first settlement is said to have been made by Nels Torgerson in June 1871. The same year Swend Peterson and Ole Esping took claims and settled there. An organization was effected in 1873, and the first election held Sept. 29, electing the following officers:

H. T. Oakland, chairman; Nels Torgerson and A. Amundson, supervisors; John Coleman, clerk; O. B. Ringham, assessor; Swend Peterson, treasurer; H. D. Frink, justice; O. H. Esping and G. Amundson, constables.

In 1878 Mr. Frink opened a store west of the present village of Minneota. He had been appointed postmaster of the postoffice of Nordland in 1872, and continued in that office till 1875, when it was transferred to N. W. L. Jager and moved to the present site of Minneota on the southwest quarter of section 25. Mr. Jager had opened a store in 1871 at the old site of Nordland and had moved it to the new site in 1875, this being the first store there. The second store was started in Nordland in 1875 by Dr. T. D. Seals. Christian Lee ran a blacksmith shop on section 26 for two years previous to this. In 1876 the railroad company laid out the present village of Minneota, which, however, went by the name of Nordland till it was changed by act of legislature in 1878 to its present name.

Rev. J. Berg held the first religious services in Eidsvold in the section house

at Nordland. The services were Lutheran. There are now two Norwegian Lutheran and one Icelandic-Lutheran organizations.

The first public school was taught by O. H. Dahl, a railroad section house being used for school purposes till 1879 when a school building was put up at Minnota.

The first marriage was that of J. J. Wilcox and Annie Clark, Oct. 21, 1871.

The first birth was made a good omen for the town in a pair of twins, a boy to Swend Petersen and wife in 1871.

The death of a daughter of Ole Petersen in 1871 was the first in town.

In 1870 Bishop Hinckley made a purchase of the town of Eidsvold of a large tract of land in Eidsvold and adjoining towns, and founded the church there. A considerable portion of this first pastor was sent to Eidsvold and the population of the town was then increased by many Americans, English and French Catholics, and a school was organized. In 1871 Rev. C. F. Hinckley, the first priest of the colony. The church services were conducted in German. The business of wine and fruit farming was a great attraction to the people, and the organization selected a locality near the town for its vineyards. The vines were trained for other purposes, but now and then a few bunches of grapes are produced. Hinckley's successor, Rev. L. A. Johnson, has since been here, and his services were soon given up to the work of the church. The town has a Norwegian, a Dutch, and a Swedish Lutheran church, and a small congregation of a Catholic church in town.

The church is now divided into three bodies, the first being the Norwegian, the second the Minnota and Eidsvold Evangelical Lutheran, and the third the Swedish. The numbers now in the first are about 200, and in the second about 150, and in the third about 130 persons Turner.

The Winona & St. Peter R. runs through the town of Eidsvold diagonally from southeast to northwest, giving the town a fine advantage over other market and trading points in Minnesota, and already enhancing the value of all real estate of the town.

The two branches of the Yellow Medicine river flow through the town, the south branch from south to north and the north branch from west to east, with a branch from the south in the west part of the town. This makes Eidsvold exceptionally well watered, and gives it rich meadows and valuable grazing fields as well as unsurpassed farming lands. The grain crop of Eidsvold has almost always been a large yield, and the town is one of the most fertile districts of the west.

The assessor's report for 1883 gave for the town 1,812 acres in wheat, 553 in oats, 278 corn, 60 barley, 22 potatoes, 2 flax, and a total acreage under cultivation of 2,735. It had also 65 acres of forest trees growing.

## LYON COUNTY.

The last assessed valuation of the town was \$66,761, and its highest recorded vote, that of 1882, was 104.

School district No. 55, organized in 1882 has a good school house and an enrolled scholarship of 10. School district No. 39 has the same enrolled scholarship and is in the north east part of the town.

One of the curiosities of Eidsvold is a fossil tree found on the north branch of the Yellow Medicine river by Ole O. Svennes in Dec. 1875. The larger piece is now in the yard of Samuel Hoyland in section 1. It is 25 inches in diameter and over six feet long, showing part of the roots, knots &c. This piece has been named Dale Gudbrand, after an old Norwegian chief who fought against St. Olof, the king who christianized Norway.

In the center of section 2 stands an old land mark in a big cottonwood nearly 90 feet high and visible for 15 miles.

A fine truss bridge spans the north branch of the Yellow Medicine on the section line between sections 1 and 2. It is 146 feet long, built by the town at a cost of \$600.

During the big flood of 1880 several very strange fish were caught in the Yellow Medicine, never seen there before. One is claimed to have been a codfish. It was a fresh one.

Houses of residents are found as follows:

Section 2, ne O. A. Svennes; nw K. Helgesen; sw K. Fodnes.

Section 4, ne F. McMahon; sw W. P. Ruggles and F. R. Adams.

Section 6, nw A. Congee; sw B. Vosburg.

Section 8, w $\frac{1}{2}$  J. Ahern; e $\frac{1}{2}$  E. Hinkley.

Section 10, nw L. P. Johnson; ne K. Knudson; sw K. Fodnes, se K. O. Bakken and Forger Stene.

Section 12, n $\frac{1}{2}$  Thor Rye and H. Boydell; se E. Knudson; sw Ole Esping.

Section 14, ne E. Syverson; se H. T. Oakland; nw K. Tyambek; sw Malone.

Section 18, se F. N. Welch; nw B. Agners.

Section 20, sw John McCormick.

Section 22, nw J. E. Kaas; ne J. Pennington and C. Hansen; Knud Rye and H. Rye; sw B. Wallen.

Section 24, nw K. E. Kjornes; ne E. K. Kjornes; sw A. Annudson; se I. Olsen and Dekier.

Section 26, ne G. Thompson; nw O. B. Ringham; sw H. H. Boe; se G. Thompson and J. Williams.

Section 28, ne W. Salmon; e $\frac{1}{2}$  L. Anderson; sw L. McDonald.

Section 30, nw Henry Carstens; sw A. Ratke and Wm. Mohr.

Section 34, nw E. O'Brien and Nels Torgerson; se K. O. Dovre; sw Ole Esteve.

## TOWN OF NORDLAND.

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Nordland is situated on the west line of the county and six miles from the north line. The surface of the town is rolling prairie watered by the south branch of the Yellow Medicine river, which flows through the town, entering at the southwest corner, and, after a very crooked passage, leaving it on the north line near the center. This gives some very fine meadow lands, and makes the town well adapted to stock raising and dairying which is being largely entered into. The soil, like all the soil of Lyon county, is unsurpassed, and there are many thrifty farms dotting the prairie.

The town was first settled by Frederick Holritz, who located on section 10 in 1870. In 1873 the town was organized, an election being held at the house of T. H. Flunne March 10. The following were the first town officers:

Ole O. Groff, chairman; Ole O. Rear and Nils Anderson, supervisors; Frederick Holritz, clerk; T. O. Loftsgaarden, assessor; A. O. Strand, treasurer; J. O. Fangen and Holritz, justices; Thrond Helverson and W. K. Hoyden, constables.

The first school was taught in 1874, districts 24 and 25 being organized that year. Private houses are still used for school purposes.

The nearest market town of Nordland is Minneota, though considerable of the trade of the town goes to Marshall.

The population of the town is entirely Scandinavian, no other nationality being found we think unless perhaps a few Icelanders. The even sections are fairly well settled. Very little settlement has yet been made on the railroad sections,

On the farm of Albert Halverson in the south part of section 28 is said to be the highest altitude in Lyon county. It is said that from there one can see nearly all over the county.

The residents of the town who have houses are located as follows:

Section 2, ne Halver Olson; nw J. B. Johnson; se Thos. Olson; sw W. K. Hovden.

Section 3, se Robt. Cultshaw.

Section 4, ne John Ohun; nw Seven Jerumansen; sw John Jhoif; se S. Severtson and John Josephson.

Section 6, n $\frac{1}{2}$  E. C. Getske; se S. G. Dalen.

Section 8, n $\frac{1}{2}$  S. Gilbertson; se Nels Nelson; sw Chris Johnson.

Section 10, nw Teeta Tolff; ne A. Strand; se Sever Tergland.

Section 12, nw H. Verpe; sw Ole Rear; ne Ole Groff; se Arny Larson.

Section 13, nw Ole Bjerska; se N. T. Dahl.

Section 14, ne T. Flume; nw A. Larson; se Nels Myre; sw Ole Severson.

Section 18, ne Charles Anderson; se Lars Jerpbak. nw Aslak Hang; sw Ole Stear.

Section 20, sw Sam'l Hanson; ne F. Holritz; se Ole Myrick.

Section 22, ne K. Melbo; nw Ole Nordba; sw J. G. Gellund; se G. Amundson.

Section 24, nw T. Johnson; sw G. Stenerson; se Ole Ladel; ne F. Remberg and Ole S. Kgelnd.

Section 28, ne Nels Halverson; nw Andrew and Albert Halverson; sw Louis Leekland.

Section 30, ne S. Anderson; sw Traney Tobias.

Section 32, nw M. Bradason; ne B. Johnson.

Section 34, nw Ole Borsnes; L. Est; se John Larson.

## TOWN OF GRANDVIEW.

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Grandview, town 112, range 42 is located six miles from the north and west lines of the county. It is one of the best prairie towns in the county, and is being rapidly settled up. The Belgian branch of the Catholic colony has taken a considerable portion of the town within the last two years, and bids fair to take more.

The first settler in Grandview was O. McQuestion, who located on section 34 in Aug. 1871. He did some breaking that summer and erected the first house, a slab "dug out" covered with sods. This was the year before the railroad reached Marshall and building material was scarce and dear.

In August 1873 the first town meeting was held at the house of J. Thomas, and there were then elected the first officers, T. J. Barber, chairman; S. B. Green and J. M. Collins, supervisors; A. L. Baldwin, clerk; Geo. Chamberlain, assessor; J. M. English, treasurer; O. McQuestion and H. B. Loomis, justices; G. A. Wirt and C. Cotterell, constables.

The first birth in the town was that of Lilly, a daughter of O. McQuestion, Dec. 16, 1871.

The first death was that of a child of Joseph Chamberlain.

The first school was taught in 1873 by Sarah Constant. The town now has four school houses.

The first preaching was by Rev. W. S. Williams, Methodist, who it is said also preached the first sermon in Fairview in Seth Johnson's blacksmith shop. This was in 1872, during which year there was quite an emigration to the town.

The W. & St. P. railroad runs across this town somewhat diagonally toward the northwest, giving a station on section 15 which was formerly named Grandview but was changed to Ghent by the Belgian colonists some two years ago. It is seven or eight miles from Marshall, and, under the impulse given it by the colonists is growing into a thrifty village.

The history and present status of the railroad stations and villages will be treated separately from the townships in another place.

Three Mile Creek runs through the town toward the north, and the bottom lands along the creek are among the finest meadows in the county. The farming lands of Grandview are good enough for the most critical and a large number of the farms are thrifty and handsome homes.

The assessor's report for 1883 gave 1,022 acres improved, 629 wheat, 264 oats, 80 corn, 15 barley, 20 potatoes, 8 flax. The crops have been uniformly as good as those of any section of the county. A canvas made by Mr. Vaugh this winter gives over 3,800 acres of improved land, about 500 cattle and 225 horses.

The town has no natural timber, but is reported as having 44 acres of cultivated forest trees, some of the groves being very thrifty and promising ones.

The last assessed valuation of Grandview was \$65,725, which will show a large increase in this spring's assessment, real estate not having been assessed for two years.

The houses of residents are to be found as follows:

Section 1, e<sub>2</sub> Victor LeBean.

Section 2, nw H. Chalmers; s<sub>2</sub> F. DeLand.

Section 3, ne J. Cavanagh.

Section 4, nw H. B. Loomis; se Thro Carron; sw C. Fonlon and G. Verghote.

Section 5, se John Ford.

Section 6, ne M. Ellefson; se G. A. Auk; nw B. Jacobson; sw Ole Rotnum.

Section 8, w<sub>2</sub> nw A. Amundson; e<sub>2</sub> nw J. M. Vaughn; sw R. L. Greenslitt; ne H. Maartens; se L. DeCock.

Section 9, sw David Van Hee.

Section 10, ne H. Princen.

Section 11, s<sub>2</sub> B. F. Jellison.

Section 12, ne F. Goodrich and E. A. DeLand; sw a Paridis; sw W. S. Goodrich.

Section 14, ne A. Graham; nw Mrs. Collins.

Section 16, nw C. Messine.

Section 17, e<sub>2</sub> A. Van Hee; nw S. Van Hee.

Section 18, n<sub>2</sub> Christin Lee; sw S. Ladel.

Section 21, ne J. Kugler and J. L. McIntosh; s<sub>2</sub> A. A. Farnum; w<sub>2</sub> W. T. Maxon.

Section 21, sw L. E. Bates; se Isaac Rignier.

Section 22, sw Chas. Cotterell and S. B. Green; se T. L. Barber; ne J. Thomas and A. L. Baldwin.

Section 24, sw J. M. English; ne G. Carpenter and E. Lord.

Section 26, ne Frank Baldwin; nw S. Coleman; sw J. Butson.

Section 27, nw Peter Schmitz; sw C. Schmitz.

Section 22, ne F. Layther; sw W. T. Maxon.

Section 30, John Sheldren; se John Nelson; nw A. J. Ladd; sw O. J. Rasmus.

Section 32, sw J. Lambert; se M. Fuller; ne L. Story.

Section 33, w $\frac{1}{2}$  A. Peniston.

Section 34, nw Wm. Goodell; ne J. G. Cook; s $\frac{1}{2}$  O. Mc Question

## TOWN OF AMIRET.

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Amiret, town 1, range 4, is on the south side of the county, and one mile from the south line.

The town was organized March 1, 1870, and named Amiret. The election held at first meeting of voters elected James Coburn, as the first officers of the town, Jas. Coburn, First, Chelating; Wm. Coburn and J. L. Jones, supervisors; Wm. Coburn, const.; E. K. Williams, assessor; A. S. Tracy, treasurer; John Taylor, postmaster; L. M. Smith, constable.

The first permanent settlers were Oberman and Lulu, and Grover, who took claims there in 1863, and Johnson's in 1864.

The W. & St. P. R. R. being built through the county in 1872, a store was opened on section 32 by Wm. Coburn and a post office established with Coburn as postmaster. The railroad company put in a switch here and the post office and station was called Coeur. The Indian trading station of Saratoga, which had been established by Lynn Eaton 1857 or before that time, and which gave that name to the whole settlement on the Cottonwood, was further south, claimed by some have been on section 1 in Custer.

In 1874 the railroad company moved their station about a mile northwest and laid out the town of Amiret on railroad land in section 19. The name it is said was given in honor of the wife of one of the railroad officials. The name of the township was changed by legislative enactment to correspond with that of the station. Mr. Coburn moved his store to the new site and continued in business for two years.

In 1873 the Congregational society built a church on section 22, but the

building was moved to the town of Custer in 1875. The first religious services held in the town were conducted by Rev. J. Rees in 1872.

The first school was taught by Mrs. Warnick in a board shanty in the summer of 1873 on section 31.

The first death was that of a daughter of L. Mason in 1872. The first birth a daughter to Wm. Coburn and wife in 1863. The first marriage was that of J. A. Hunter of Marshall to Miss C. A. Mitchell, June 3, 1875.

Both branches of the Cottonwood flow through Amiret, the north branch draining lake Marshall and Goose Lake and flowing through the north sections of the town, while the southern and larger branch flows from the southwest corner to its junction with the northern branch near the northeast corner. This insures for the town an ample water supply, furnishes good meadows, and on the south branch considerable timber. The earlier settlers naturally took to the timber of the Big Cottonwood, and as settlement entered into the town rather slowly the interest in tree culture was not awakened till late in the town's history, so that by the last assessors report there were only 27 acres of cultivated forest trees in the town. The acreage of cultivated land by the same report was, however, 3,159, of which 1,237 were in wheat, 870 in oats, 428 in corn, 123 in buckwheat, 57 in potatoes, 11 in beans, 57 in flax.

The soil of Amiret is good and there is little waste land.

The town has now three school houses and its educational interests are not neglected.

The station of Amiret now supplies a market, a store being operated by Mr. Kelly and a grain warehouse by VanDusen & Co. The railroad company has a good depot, and a commodious school house has been built here. There is no good reason why Amiret, in due time, should not be a thrifty village on the present site of Amiret.

The settlers of Amiret have houses located as follows:

Section 2, ne E. S. Woodburn; se J. Fredenberg; nw E. Skyhawk.

Section 4, se J. Devens; sw O. P. Bell; nw J. W. Devens.

Section 6, ne H. C. Maydole and J. Sanke; nw C. H. Dudley.

Section 8, nw Jas. Struthers and H. C. Swift; sw John Curran.

Section 10, nw A. Nichols; ne V. O. Covey; sw W. Blackman and P. Devens.

Section 11, sw H. V. Burchard.

Section 12, se J. Sherman.

Section 14, J. M. Taylor; sw J. Frost; nw H. N. Randall.

Section 15, se S. F. Rowell.

Section 17, n $\frac{1}{2}$  H. Curran.

Section 18, se C. R. Maydole; sw D. Tucker.

Section 20, nw J. W. Nichols; se B. Nichols and Jas. T. Hernan.

Section 21, nw H. D. Shepherd; sw T. R. Mathews.

Section 23, nw J. M. Mitchell.

Section 26, ne J. York.

Section 28, ne, A. D. Lord; se G. Harding; nw H. Drake.

Section 30, se James Mitchell

Section 31, nw P. Ford; sw C. S. Grover; se L. D. Grover.

Section 32, se W. Harrison.

Section 34, nw G. F. Harding; ne O. W. Walsh.

## TOWN OF SODUS.

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The township of Sodus, which is town 110, range 41, lies south of the town of Lake Marshall, and is six miles from the east and south lines of the county. Its surface is gently rolling prairie, with very little waste land. The south half has more natural meadows, especially along the Cottonwood river and its branches. The grass of these meadows is very valuable, and that section of the town makes a very desirable grazing field where either dairying or stock raising can be made a profitable and easy business. Along these water courses there are between three and four hundred acres of these meadow lands as good as can be found in the west. The grass of these meadows, by the overflow of the river every spring attains a growth of from four to six feet, and makes the most nutritious of hay for winter feed.

Though with very little native timber, the town now shows several fine groves of forest trees that have been raised by the settlers. Among these may be mentioned those of Mr. Curtis, the Messrs. Neil, Mr. Ford, Messrs. Clark, Mr. Estee and Chace. There are also some thrifty timber claims that will furnish fuel in the near future to their owners and greatly add to the appearance of the town. There are in the town 112 acres of cultivated forest trees, and 2,314 rods set on highways.

There were reported in last assessor's report, 3,140 acres of cultivated land, of which 1,565 were wheat, 867 oats, 432 corn, 137 barley, 32 potatoes, 84 flax

The farmers of Sodus are of late paying more attention to good stock, and are consequently improving in finances accordingly. There are several pro-

persons and very good farmers in the town who are demonstrating that agriculture in Lyon county can be made a success.

The public spiritedness of the town of Sodus is shown in their highways, on which since the organization of the town, seven years ago, they have spent in labor and lumber for bridges about three thousand dollars.

The town has, also, four good frame school houses, the one in district No. 5 costing about \$900, the others about \$600 each. School houses are located on sections 8, 10, 30 and 32.

The town is well situated in relation to railroad markets, Marshall being five miles north, Batavia four miles south, Attiret one mile east; and there is a coming prospect of another station near by on the west when the Duuth road is completed through the county.

The first settler in Sodus is said to have been Henry Cuyle, who came in the spring of 1871. From that time the town settled up rapidly, and in 1876 the town was organized and named Martin, but soon changed to Sodus. The first town meeting was held Oct. 27, 1876, and the following first town officers were elected: E. Hall, chairman; C. Fisher and D. Warn, supervisors; W. H. Chaffee, clerk, G. Sykes, treasurer; N. Warn and J. H. Clark, justices; O. Pangburn and W. G. Williams, constables.

Miss Francis Mason taught the first school in 1877, a dwelling house having to be used in the absence of school houses.

The first death was that of Tollet Olson in Sept. 1873. The funeral sermon by Rev. Joseph Rees was the first public religious service in the town it is said.

Houses of settlers are located as follows:

Section 2, se M. Steele; nw Wm. Berry and J. McCudden; se J. Richie.

Section 4, ne C. Fisher; se W. Chaffee; nw O. Pangburn; sw John Clark.

Section 5, Mr. Maxson.

Section 6, ne H. Barnes; se C. Caley; nw Gray; sw N. Minnie, T. Hicks.

Section 8, nw E. Clark; ne D. Clark; sw A. R. Johnson; se T. F. Watson.

Section 14, sw Henry Estee.

Section 18, se C. Marsh and D. Shilliam; sw W. L. Thurston.

Section 19, se Hugh Neill.

Section 22, sw N. Warn; nw J. Taylor.

Section 24, ne H. Warn, nw Wm. Hull and A. R. Chase; sw J. Scott.

Section 25, sw B. Ford.

Section 26, ne G. Cook; se A. Wienke; nw C. Lorenze; sw A. Lorenze.

Section 28, ne J. N. Lawshe; se W. G. Williams.

Section 30, ne Robt. Neill; se Wm. Neill; nw Robt. Marshall; sw H. Ford.

Section 33, nw A. Anderson; ne Wm. Shequin; se A. C. Forbes.

Section 34, nw T. Edwards; sw John and Wm. Griffiths; se N. Davis.

## TOWN OF LYONS.

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Lyons, which is town 110, range 42, lies south of Lynd, and is six miles from the west and south lines of the county. The east and south portions of the town are open prairie country with the usual rich soil and meadow lands of the county generally. The northwest corner of Lyons is cut by the Redwood river, giving it some timber groves and also some rough land. It is probable, as stated in the article on Lynd, that the first white men in the county located in Lyons. The remains of an old log house, supposed to have been Lynd's trading post was found by the settlers in 1867 on section 5 of Lyons. The station was afterward moved to Lynd, however, if this theory is correct, probably after a burn out.

The first permanent settler in the town was C. E. Goodeil, who located on section 5 in 1857. He was in the woods as a logger before this time, a scheme having been hatched to cut logs there and float them to Redwood Falls during high water. It is claimed by some that he was the first man in the county after the Indian trading posts of the period before the Indian massacre. Later in the spring of 1868 E. E. Taylor settled in the town. Soon after C. Hildreth, W. S. Adams and H. L. Pierce settled in the town.

An organization was effected in 1873, the first election being held April 1st. The first town officers were Gordon Watson, chairman; C. L. VanFleet and J. C. Buell, supervisors; Henry Mussler, clerk; Chas. Hildreth, assessor; C. Wright, treasurer; J. W. Hoagland and E. Lamb, justices, C. E. Goodeil and A. Crosby, constables.

## LYON COUNTY.

A school was opened the same year, Florence Downie being teacher. There are now three school houses in the town.

Rev. R. Wait, Presbyterian, conducted the first religious services there in 1870. A society was formed and a church built on section 14 in 1873. The same year the P. O. of Hildredthsburg was established at the house of Chas. Hildreth, who was P. M. till the discontinuance of the office in 1878, Hildreth's house having been burned by prairie fire. The postoffice of Leo was established in July 1880 and located at Mr. Millard's on section 14. Mrs. Millard was appointed P. M., which position she still holds.

The houses of settlers in Lyons are located as follows:

Section 5, ne B. F. Bates; se C. V. and J. J. Hicks; nw Gordon Watson.

Section 4, ne W. C. Adams and H. L. Pierce; nw C. E. Rice.

Section 6, ne Mrs. Day; se D. Leary; sw R. Beasley.

Section 10, se J. Fifield; ne M. G. Fifield.

Section 11, se F. R. Lindsey.

Section 12, nw C. E. Rice; sw E. B. Downie; ne F. C. Hicks and T. S. Downie; se M. M. Curtis.

Section 14, ne C. E. Goodell; nw J. M. Millard; sw R. Wait; se C. S. Riley.  
Section 18, ne D. N. Fellon.

Section 20, sw R. Roberts; se A. Dann; ne I. N. Harvey.

Section 22, nw R. D. Soper; sw D. Soper; se J. W. and J. F. Hoagland.

Section 23, sw Jas. Murison; ne J. Ingram.

Section 24, ne G. H. Thurston.

Section 25, se J. Burns; sw W. Riddell; nw Robt. Riddell.

Section 28, ne S. W. Gallbraith; se L. Jones; nw C. E. Dresser and C. C. Wagner.

Section 30, ne D. T. Fellon; se J. VanSchoick; nw L. P. Knapp.

Section 32, sw W. Carlaw; se C. L. VanFleet.

Section 34, nw C. E. Rice; ne T. Graham; se L. Mitzner; sw E. Jones.

Section 35, nw E. Schmitz; ne J. Mitzner; sw Teufel.

In 1883 there were according to the assessor's returns 2,118 acres of cultivated land, 824 wheat, 676 oats, 363 corn, 167 barley, 21 potatoes, 43 flax. There were also 43 acres of cultivated forest trees.

Rush lake, near the central part of the town, is well known to the hunters of water fowl, but is not a very attractive lake otherwise.

The settlers of Lyons are mostly Americans, and are among the best and thriftest of Lyon county's population. There are several model farms, and the future of the town is that of a rich agricultural and dairy district. The Duluth, North Shore and Southwestern R. R. will undoubtedly run through the town next year.

## TOWN OF LYND.

Lynd lies west of the town of Lake Marshall and is town 111, range 42.

The history of Lynd is ancient history in its relation to Lyon county, this town being the site of the county's earliest settlement.

There was a trading station for the Indian trade established here by James W. Lynd probably as early as 1855 or '57. His store was located, it is said, on the northeast quarter of section 33. This statement is contradicted by some who claim that it was on the southeast quarter of section 5 in Lyons. In the latter place the early settlers found the remains of a building that had been burned, and in the spring of 1889 Mr. Goodell in plowing his garden half a mile north of this spot plowed up a tub full of tools, consisting of handsaws, chisels, an auger, hoes, a hand axe, a flat iron, a tea cup and saucer. The tub was wholly rotted, leaving only the impression, and the tools were nearly destroyed by use. The Indians, it is said, point out section five of Lyons as the first trading post. On section 33 the first settlers found a big building still standing, which L. Tickner used as a residence for a short time. It was later used as a school house; then as a store by G. W. Whitney. It is quite probable that Lynd's post may have been moved to this point from section 5 in Lyons after a burn out, or for other reasons.

The first permanent settlement in Lynd was in June 1867, when A. W. Muzzy, James Cummings and E. B. Langdon took claims on section 32 and 33. In September and October of the same year, Mrs. C. F. Wright and son, L. Langdon and family, Luman Tickner, wife and step-daughter (Miss E. B.

Taylor, now Mrs. G. A. Witt,) M. V. Davidson and family and D. M. and E. E. Taylor made homes in Lynd. Some half-breeds had taken claims in the town before this time, and two of them, Thomas Robinson and John Moers, held claims respectively on sections 27 and 34, when the settlers above named arrived. They sold out to R. Holland and A. Ranson in 1853 and moved to Lincoln county. In 1853, James, A. R. and Geo. Cummings, L. S. Kiel, L. and Geo. Marceyes, A. D. Morgan, J. Reuse and John Clark settled in the town.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Ranson became the parents of a daughter in November of 1868, which was the first white girl born in the county. The first boy born in Lynd was Henry L. Cummings, son of Geo. E. Cummings, in 1867.

The first death was that of Mrs. Bowers, a daughter of Mr. Neuzer, April 20, 1868. She died of consumption one week after arriving in Lynd.

The first religious meeting was a class meeting led by A. G. Moore in the winter of 1857 and 1858 at L. Tickner's. A Methodist church was organized by Rev. C. F. Wright at L. Tickner's in the fall of 1858. The next year a Union Sunday school was organized at the same place, with a library of about 135 books, 100 of which were donated by the local Sunday school at Portion, Ill., the rest by Mr. E. Beckman. In the fall of 1859 a school was opened at Lynd.

In the fall of 1859 the Presbyterians organized their church meeting, which being held at L. Tickner's by Rev. Mr. George Brown, they took up a collection and built the first church in the county, located on the hill above L. Tickner's. It was made of logs with doors and windows of logs. A large portion was partly built in Upper Lynd, and the logs were hauled down the hill to Lower Lynd for a residence.

Lydia Cummings taught the first school in 1859, before the schoolroom. The school was taught in the log cabin taught by Cummings, a common Indian trading post.

A police was established for Lower Lynd in 1860, with Dr. H. Taylor P. M. It was held by him over four years. He also kept a grocery store the first part of his term.

L. Tickner opened a hotel at Lynd in 1858. The travel through Lynd at this time could not have been very large or regular. Bands of Flandreau Indians camped in the woods occasionally and a few travelers from Redwood Falls now and then stopped there as immigrants or on their way to settlements beyond. Between Lynd and Redwood Falls there was but one house. Lumber used was hauled 50 miles, generally from logs hauled the same distance to mill. Provisions not raised at home had to be brought from St. Peter or New Ulm.

The first regular mail carried to Lynd from Redwood Falls and the first in the county, probably, was by C. Hildreth. The contract was soon after let

to Wm. Jackson; who was the first white child born in St. Paul. James Cummings and J. Rouse built a saw mill at Upper Lynd in 1868. It was changed to a grist mill about 1872 by Smith, Ellis & Rouse. This is now known as the Camden mill, and is owned by V. M. Smith. It has three runs of stone. H. R. Marcyes also built a three run mill on section 23. It is now the property of B. F. Link. Chas. Hildreth commenced the building of a mill on section 17 about 1872. A substantial dam was made and for good reasons, probably, the scheme was then abandoned.

The village of Lynd was laid out by Mr. Muzzy on the south side of the Redwood river on section 33. In 1871 he sold out to W. T. Ellis who put up several buildings.

Lower Lynd was laid out in 1871 by A. R. Cummings and A. D. Morgan. A hotel was built and run there by Morgan and Kiel, and the former started a store there. Ellis moved his business there from Upper Lynd, and the P. O. was also moved there. About 1874 the P. O. at Camden was established with Ellis as P. M.

The older citizens of the county will remember Ellis as a character. Governed mostly by impulse he was always ready to preach a sermon, run horses for the whiskey, conduct a Sunday school or beat his best friend in a trade. Since leaving here he became the moving factor in a church race to such an extent as to get his portrait in the Police News. While here he was an energetic, fervid effervescent citizen who did considerable to build up the church and secular interests of Lynd, and develop its latent possibilities. He opened a store at Lynd and bought goods for it sufficient to stock several such settlements. His goods had to be brought by team from New Ulm, and were caught in a heavy rain storm on the way. It is said the driver and team swerved so that all the other goods in that load were shoved overboard, and this load of codfish, bought at ten rates, probably on time, had to be spread over the hills of Lynd to dry till the air of that settlement, it is claimed, reached the Iroquois Indians and seventy bucks went on the war path thinking they smelled the camp of another tribe.

The first marriage in the town was that of W. H. Langdon and Zilpha Cummings in 1868, Rev. C. F. Wright officiating.

The first horses in the county were owned by E. B. Langdon, first mules by M. V. Davidson, first chickens and turkeys by L. W. Langdon, first hogs by L. Tickner, first dog by J. Cummings. L. Tickner plowed the first ground for crop in spring of 1868. The first wheat raised was by A. R. Cummings in 1869.

Fourth of July was first celebrated at Lynd in 1868, and a merry celebration it was.

There are now two postoffices in Lynd, one at Camden with J. Rouse, P. M.

the other at what was formerly known as Lower Lynd, with L. S. Kiel, P. M. Both Upper and Lower Lynd were for a time the county seat.

The Redwood river flows through Lynd, and a considerable body of timber is found along its banks, though the fuel demands of hard winters have made heavy inroads on it, and small quantities are now being marketed. Three Mile Creek cuts the northwest corner of the town, and small branches of the Redwood make the water supply of the town ample. The "prairie" portions of the town are excellent soil and the agricultural status of Lynd is fully up to the standard.

The town of Lynd was organized Sept. 4, 1872, but no election was had. The county board appointed as its first officer J. Rouse, chairman; A. R. Cummings and J. Stark, supervisors; N. Davis, clerk; G. E. Cummings, treasurer.

At the special election in aid of the Duluth railroad, Feb. 23, 1883, Lynd cast 72 votes, all in favor of bonding the county.

In 1883 it had 3,823 acres under cultivation, of which 1,642 were wheat, 896 oats, 650 corn, 210 barley, 41 potatoes, 18 beans, 246 flax.

Its last assessed valuation was \$103,997.

Its population is mostly Americans and intelligent, thrifty and desirable citizens.

There are five school houses in the town, and church services are held at Lynd and Camden.

The houses of the present settlers are located as follows:

Section 1, Youmania farm.

Section 2, n<sup>W</sup> J. Goodwin; se P. B. Fezler; sw C. and P. C. Farnham.

Section 3, se J. Peterson.

Section 4, se J. Myers.

Section 6, ne R. Spates; sw F. Peterson.

Section 8, nw W. Williams; ne Jas. Lockey; sw A. P. Wells.

Section 9, nw C. S. Foster; sw A. and F. Mellentine.

Section 10, nw C. Morton; sw J. Anderson.

Section 11, n<sup>E</sup> Larabee & Sons; sw Wm. Acheson; se Otto Anderson; ne Chas. Pearson.

Section 12, nw O. A. Hawes; sw Co. poor farm; ne W. S. Eastman; se I. V. Eastman.

Section 13, nw, A. Nelson.

Section 14, ne C. Acheson and C. Nelson; se A. Nelson; sw Orla Nash and W. Wonderleigh; nw P. Mullany.

Section 18, ne H. Rolph; se Philip Snyder; nw A. C. Tucker; sw H. Rathwell.

Section 20, nw H. Tucker; sw G. A. Wonderleigh; ne L. E. Fellows and Alex Burr; se W. and B. Sykes.

Section 22, ne Jas. Cummings.

Section 23, sw L. Mareyes; ne Geo. Link and Link's mill.

Section 24, nw B. F. Link; sw A. L. Randall; ne B. Heath; se Angel.

Section 25, nw C. E. Rice.

Section 26, ne L. Gilman; sw Z. O. Titus and H. Smith.

Section 27, ne W. L. Watson; nw C. E. Rice, L. S. Kiel and Lynd P. O.; sw Rice and S. Van Alstine.

Section 28, ne A. R. Cummings; se D. C. Pierce; nw J. Dryden.

Section 29, ne C. M. Damuth.

Section 30, ne O. Gregg; nw O. C. Gregg; se H. G. Ward; sw L. A. Gregg.

Section 32, ne C. Shilliam and W. H. Langdon; sw V. M. Smith; se Camden mill, J. Rouse, Gregg's store and Camden P. O.

Section 34, sw Mrs. Pierce.

## TOWN OF ISLAND LAKE.

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Town 111, range 43, was organized in 1878, the first election being held in March 1879, electing Robt. Gardner, chairman; L. Grow and Geo. George, supervisors; J. R. King, clerk and assessor; D. A. Kennedy, treasurer; J. H. Sykes, constable.

The town takes its name from a lake in the south part of the town. The island in Island Lake has an area of two and a half or three miles, and is covered with a substantial growth of trees. The lake, covering probably over 200 acres, has no outlet except in high water, when it runs into Three Mile Creek.

It is fed by springs. Mr. J. R. King, living near the lake, has a fine spring of soft water. The shores of the lake are dry. There are not many fish in the lake, but efforts have been made by Mr. King and others to stock it with pike and other fish, and before many years this defect will undoubtedly be remedied.

Goose lake, a short distance west, abounds in fish. It covers about 160 acres, has high rocky banks, and is an attractive lake.

North of the lakes Three Mile Creek crosses the town from west to east. On the creek in section 24 there is a grove of natural timber, consisting of four or five acres. A branch of the Yellow Medicine runs across the northwest corner of the town, and has some timber on its banks.

The surface of the town is not as level as that of some of its sister towns, a narrow range of the couleaus, gravel and stone hills, crossing the town from southeast to northwest. This coulauan section interferes somewhat with the

agricultural value of the town, but the valleys of the couteaus have been found to make the best grazing district in the county. The washings from the hills probably enrich them. At least the growth of grass is remarkably large and very nutritious. The rolling character of the pasture is said to make healthier stock than on level fields.

A glacial period or a drift from some other cause has deposited along these couteaus boulders and small ledges of lime rock. The latter is often found in large pieces, apparently dropped from some overhanging vehicle, sometimes standing on edge. Mr. King ran a lime kiln for some years there on this supply, and abandoned it on account of cost of fuel.

The soil outside the couteaus is as good as that of any other part of the county, and produces large crops.

The first settlement of the town was made by Rev. Williams on section 24, about the year 1870. In 1871 Lafayette Grow and Mr. Fort settled on the Yellow Medicine, and in 1872 John R. King settled on section 34, and kept the half way house between Marshall and Marshfield. For some years after the town did not settle very fast, but it is now fairly settled up with vigorous and thrifty farmers. Nearly every farmer has planted a grove of timber, which now begins to afford protection in winter, and greatly improves the summer landscape.

The first marriage of parties in the town was J. R. King, Dec. 24, 1878 to Elizabeth Milner.

The first child born was Ethel Hodgkins.

The first school was taught by Ada Kennedy in 1879.

First religious services at house of J. R. King by a Mr. Dewey from Chicago.

The reported acreage cultivated in 1883 was 1,601, 887 wheat, 370 oats, 173 corn, 139 barley, 20 potatoes, 10 beans. There were 59 acres of forest trees and 750 rods set on highways.

39 votes were cast in Island Lake at the special election, Feb. 23, 1883, to bond the county for \$40,000 in aid of the Duluth, North Shore and Southwestern railroad, which proposes to run through the county from Shelburne to Lucas. All were for bonding.

The last assessed valuation was \$30,396.

The houses of settlers are situated as follows:

Section 2, ne Aug. Meehl, nw John Olson; se Peter Jacobson; sw Ole Ferguson.

Section 3, se John Willson.

Section 4, ne Peter Ferguson; se K. Ferguson; nw H. Oleson; sw G. Rue.

Section 6, ne B. Knutson; se E. Tibbetts and L. Grow; sw A. R. Snow.

Section 8, n<sup>1</sup> C. F. Tibbetts, T. Jacobson, M. W. Roberts; sw H. Nelson.

## LYON COUNTY.

Section 10, nw M. Ferguson; sw H. Ferguson; se Jacob Willson.

Section 12. n<sup>1</sup> J. Paulson; se Mary Cornish, E. Rolph; sw J. P. Christianson.

Section 13, se Geo. Boston.

Section 14, ne R. Phillips; nw John Lanning; se R. W. Phillips; sw Homer Sparks.

Section 18, e<sup>1</sup> C. Willman; nw M. McDonald.

Section 20, nw John Albright; ne O. Morris.

Section 22, sw C. Bohlman and John Dyke; se W. Van Buren; ne Paul Polasky.

Section 24, nw C. Pochart; ne E. Barnes; se Geo. George.

Section 26, ne J. Peterson; nw T. H. Russell and D. W. Kennedy; sw D. A. Kennedy.

Section 28, e<sup>1</sup> Robt. Gardner.

Section 30, sw S. Freese.

Section 32, nw John Foulds; se A. Pochart.

Section 34, nw J. C. Beach; ne C. J. Falk; se J. R. King.

There are school houses in section 4 and section 34.

## TOWN OF COON CREEK.

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The town of Coon Creek lies on the west line of the county and six miles from the south line. It is town 110, range 43.

The town was organized in 1832. The name of Garfield was first proposed, but as the state already had a town of that name it was changed to Stowe. This name not being satisfactory, was again changed in 1873 to Coon Creek a name that is as appropriate as Walrus Island would be for the equator. If there was ever a coon in the town it must have come with the south wind. The name, however, has one merit, individuality. There is no other town of that name in this latitude.

There is a creek called Coon Creek rising on section 6 which runs in a southeasterly course, striking the east line of the town on section 24. It empties into the Redwood river. This creek has some timber on its banks near its junction with the Redwood.

The large quantity of school and university land in the town has been a bar to rapid settlement. The greater part of the improvement has been made within the last year or two.

Wood Lake, given as lake Marguerite on some maps, lies in the north part of the town and is a beautiful little lake fringed with timber. The drainage of the town is into the Redwood river, which flows across the southeast corner and near the east line after leaving it. There is some timber along the river, and wood has been sold in Marshall from Coon Creek, but the supply is limited and not sufficient for the future demands of the town. Last year's assessor's report gave 17 acres of cultivated forest trees and 250 rods on highways.

## LYON COUNTY.

The town was first settled by D. S. Burt who took land on section 24, in May 1870. J. R. Burgett came in June 1871, locating on section 4 on the bank of Wood Lake. H. H. Hodgkins and F. T. Burt came in about the same time. Very little settlement was made in the town for a year or two after.

The first sermon was preached by Rev. R. Wait in 1875.

The first marriage was that of Thos. Milner and Ella Knapp, Nov. 28, 1877.

The first birth was William, a son of Samuel Starrett, born at the house of Mr. Burt in 1870.

The first death was that of a babe of Mr. and Mrs. Burt, November 1876.

A portion of the town is cut by the coteau range, making some rough and waste land. There are, however, fine farming and dairy lands in the town, and several thrifty farms have been opened by an enterprising class of settlers.

Houses of residents are found as follows:

Section 2, se F. Mungerson; sw B. F. Bement and Nels Anderson; nw C. A. Johnson.

Section 3, W. M. Rice.

Section 4, se F. Porter.

Section 6, ne Siemer; nw P. Senerty; sw C. Cupp.

Section 8, ne M. Milner; se G. O. Rask.

Section 9, se W. W. Herrick.

Section 10, nw F. Willard.

Section 11, se A. Johnson.

Section 12, sw Wm. McCarty.

Section 14, nw John Cleland.

Section 18, se L. Larson; sw John Johnson.

Section 20, sw T. Joy; se A. Joy; ne Wm. Leaman.

Section 22, sw J. Fuller; se L. Hildreth; ne H. H. Hodgkins.

Section 24, nw D. S. Burt; se F. Hida.

Section 29, s<sup>1</sup> R. Taylor.

Section 30, n<sup>1</sup> J. J. McDonald.

## TOWN OF CUSTER.

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Custer lies on the south line of the county and six miles from the east line, and is town 109, range 41.

The Cottonwood river flows across the north end of the town from west to east, and had some years ago considerable timber along its banks. This fact, which is an attraction in all new prairie countries, brought white traders to this section before the Indian massacre of 1862. A German some time before this opened an Indian trading station on the Cottonwood river it is said on section 1. It was called Saratoga. Trouble with a half breed by the name of Joseph Campbell led to the murder of the trader by Campbell who was afterward hung by a mob at Mankato for the murder of the Jewett family.

No settlement was made after this till 1868, when H. C. Masters, John Avery, Horace Randall and G. S. Robinson took claims in the town. The town was organized in 1876, the first town meeting, Oct. 14th of that year, being held at the school house on section 2. The first ticket elected was L. D. Lewis, chairman; W. H. Hughes and Wm. Shand, supervisors; B. F. Thomas clerk and treasurer. The other town offices were not filled till the succeeding spring election.

Jane Mitchell taught the first school in a log house on section 2 in the winter of 1870. The district then combined the present towns of Custer, Monroe, Amiret and Sodus. Custer now has three school districts and comfortable school buildings.

Rev. Riley, a Methodist preacher, conducted the first religious service in the

town in 1870. The next year a Presbyterian society of 16 members was organized under Rev. Joseph Rees. A church was built in 1873, but was burned in 1878. The Congregational society now have a church on section 12, Rev. Peregerine being pastor.

A considerable portion of the population of Custer is of Welsh extraction and the census of the town would probably give about 240 people, the spring election of this year showing a poll of 48 votes,

In the south part of the town are two lakes, Lake of the Hills and Long lake.

Along the Cottonwood are some fine groves of natural timber, though large tracts have been cut off for fuel purposes. There are many pleasant home-steads and rich thrifty farms in the town. The assessor's report of 1883 gave 3,142 acres improved, 1,456 of which were wheat, 917 oats, 269 corn, 260 barley, 35 potatoes, 6 beans, 90 flax. The town also had at that time 87 acres of cultivated forest trees.

The Dakota Central runs through the south part of the town, but, as yet, has no station in the town. The nearest markets are, Traey, four miles east; Balaton, 2½ miles west; Amiret, 3 miles north; Marshall, 10 miles north.

Resident's houses are located as follows.

Section 1, se G. S. Robinson.

Section 2, ne C. M. Goodrich and David Morgan; se E. H. Cutts; sw S. DeLong.

Section 4, ne B. F. Thomas; se B. B. Thomas; nw Layfayette Alden; sw A. Booth.

Section 8, ne C. Anderson.

Section 10, ne John Avery; se Margaret Jones; w½ W. W. Harrison.

Section 12, nw Jas Morgan; sw J. Rees and R. H. Hughes; e½ D. C. Griffiths.

Section 13, s½ J. H. Cutler.

Section 14, se W. H. Hughes, sw Wm. Shand; nw J. H. Hughes.

Section 18, ne P. Fedde and W. W. Gifford; se D. D. Jones; sw Jas. Elliott; nw Geo. I. Glotfelter.

Section 20, nw C. Whitmus and J. W. Whitmus; ne C. Whitmus.

Section 22, nw J. Steele; ne Daniel Willford; sw K. K. Olson; se L. Soward and A. G. Bumford.

Section 34, nw T. L. Harris; sw J. L. Harris; ne H. H. Williams; se S. Evans.

Section 25, ne L. B. Woolfolk.

Section 26, ne R. Owens and R. R. Owens; se E. H. Cutts; sw J. Owens.

Section 28, ne J. P. Jones; nw M. Nelson; sw John Swenson.

Section 30, ne Wm. Parks; w½ C. W. Candee.

Section 32, nw S. Soward.

Section 34, ne H. Peterson; nw Hans Jacobson se; C. Helleson; sw T. Nelson.

## TOWN OF ROCK LAKE.

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The township of Rock Lake, which is town 109, range 42, lies on the south line of the county and one mile from the west line. It derives its name from a lake which lies in the northwest corner of the town, the name of which was given it by the early settlers on account of the character of its banks which in some places are nearly walled up with boulders. It is a beautiful little lake with some timber on its shores, deep water and stocked with fish. It is a favorite picnic ground and one of the attractions of the town.

The town was first settled in the spring of 1871 by the McNabbs from Canada, who located on section 14 on the north shore of lake Yankton. This lake is smaller than Rock Lake and not so deep, but is an attractive body of pure water, and furnishes much pleasure to the people of Balaton which is built on its south shore. In 1872 W. and E. Hamm, G. W. Linderman, C. Osborn, J. W. Lester, J. A. Van Fleet, J. T. Crouch, A. Town, Mr. McKay and Miss Lina Bishop were residents of the town. Other early settlers were W. Livingston, L. Town, G. A. Glotfelter, E. R. Weeks, L. Nichols, J. Abernethy, O. E. Persons and H. L. Gifford.

The town was organized in Oct. 1876, and the following officers elected: W. Livingston, chairman; W. Hamm and Jas. Abernethy, supervisors; A. N. Daniels, clerk; G. W. Linderman, treasurer; J. A. Van Fleet and Geo. A. Glotfelter, justices; E. R. Weeks and A. McNabb, constables. This election was held at the school house on the land owned by J. Abernethy, now in school district No. 69.

## LYON COUNTY.

The first marriage occurred in Oct. 1879, C. M. Eichler and Cora Hamm. The ceremony was performed by justice O. E. Persons.

The first death was that of Geo. A. Glotfelter, June 21, 1878.

The first birth that of a son to one the McNabbs.

There have been since the town was organized 52 births and 16 deaths.

Rock Lake postoffice was established in 1874, R. Weeks, postmaster. The office was kept at Weeks' house in Lyons, however. He was succeeded by A. C. Dann in 1875, and during the same year J. A. Van Fleet was appointed, and removed the office to his house in Rock Lake. He was properly the first postmaster in the town. The office was discontinued in 1881, Balaton having sprung up with the building of the D. C. railroad through the town, and the postoffice at that town supplying the territory heretofore supplied by the Rock Lake P. O.

There are four school districts in the town and two substantial school buildings, one on section 8 and one on section 23 at Balaton.

Religious services are held in both these houses by the Presbyterians and Methodists.

There are sixty voters and about 250 inhabitants in the town.

The assessor's report for 1883 gives Rock Lake 1,596 acres under cultivation, of which 801 were wheat, 494 oats, 181 corn, 102 barley, 18 potatoes. There were also 39 acres of cultivated forest trees.]

The last assessed valuation of the town was \$64,391. As real estate has not been assessed for two years, there will probably be a large increase in the next assessment.

The surface of Rock Lake is rolling prairie, containing the usual amount of rich meadows and fertile farming land.

The Dakota Central railroad, a branch of the C. & N. W. which runs from Tracy to Pierre on the Missouri river, passes through Rock Lake from east to west, giving the town one station in Balaton. The Duluth road when completed will undoubtedly give the town a competing market in a station near by on the west.

The Cottonwood river takes its rise in or near this town, and flows across it giving drainage, water supply and rich meadows.

The population of Rock Lake is mostly one of intelligent, thrifty and prosperous Americans. No town in the county can claim a better class of settlers.

There are three lakes in the town, Rock Lake and Yankton, before mentioned, and McKay lake on sections 3 and 4.

The houses of settlers are found as follows:

Section 2, nw T. Lochman; sw J. Golts.

Section 3, ne T. Luedkee; sw G. Golts.

Section 4, nw M. S. Fawcett and J. A. Van Fleet.  
Section 6, se Mrs. Crouch; sw Geo. Carlaw; nw O. E. Persons.  
Section 8, sw J. Abernethy; se G. W. Linderman.  
Section 11, J. O'Garee; se G. W. Rowe.  
Section 12, nw Geo. W. Root; sw M. Randall; ne<sup>1</sup> O. S. Carlisle.  
Section 13, n<sup>1</sup> J. W. Wolverton.  
Section 14, ne A. McNabb; nw C. A. Glottfelter.  
Section 18, ne E. R. Weeks; nw R. W. Taylor; sw S. Flint.  
Section 20, ne T. L. Terry.  
Section 21, se O. E. Merriman.  
Section 22, sw L. Town; ne Mrs. McErlain; se A. Town.  
Section 23, village of Balaton.  
Section 24, nw N. Truedson and E. W. Gifford; sw Mrs. Trotter; se Wm. Hamm.  
Section 26, ne J. H. Moore; se H. L. Gifford; sw A. W. Bean.  
Section 28, ne C. Town; se H. C. Howard; nw N. Terry.  
Section 30, nw P. Russell; se T. Skoag.  
Section 32, nw J. M. Johnson; sw C. K. Bengston.  
Section 34, sw O. O. Laff; ne E. M. Hamm; se J. P. Davis.

## TOWN OF SHELBURNE.

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The town of Shelburne is situated in the southwest corner of the county. It was first settled in 1871 by E. K. Ronning, C. P. Myran and Christopher Johnson, Norwegians. The town was organized Sept. 6th 1879. The first town officers were P. C. McCann, charman; D. A. Aurandt and W. F. Randall, supervisors, W. N. Olin, town clerk; F. W. Howard assessor; E. Peterson, treasurer; E. F. Dickson and H. P. Sandeen, justices; Charles Howard and Andrew Gilbertson, constables.

The first religious services were held in the fall of 1876 by Rev. Mr. Egland a Norwegian Lutheran. That society built a frame church on section 20 in the fall of 1880. The society sold the first church building to school district No. 58, since which they have built a large and very commodious church, which is an ornament to the town. The first school district was organized in 1880, including the whole town. The first school was taught by Miss Sadie Bartlett in 1881. The town has now three school districts.

Shelburne has one railroad running through it, the Dakota Central. A station has been established about 60 rods west of the Redwood river, called Redwood.

The surface is rolling prairie, splendid soil, as good as can be found in the state, and is well adapted for dairying or stock raising. Hay is plenty and can be put in the stack to cost not exceeding one dollar per ton. The town is watered by the Redwood River and numerous small lakes. By digging from 15 to 25 feet good water can be obtained.

The western part of the town is settled by Norwegians, a very industrious classs of people who are acquiring fine homes. The eastern part is settled mostly by people from the New England states.

With the completion of the Duluth R. R. Shelburne is quite likely to get a station near its east line, which will give it the best of market facilities.

The Redwood river flows through the town from south to north near the ecenter of the town.

Shelburne is a new town and rather scantily populated. The last vote of the town, that on the question of aiding the Duluth railroad, was 23, of which 20 were for the bonds. This should give the town a probable population of about 130.

The last assessed valuation of Shelburne was \$27,791.

The assessor's report for 1873 gave the town 1241 acres of improved land, of which 540 were wheat, 313 oats, 89 corn, 255 barley, 20 potatoes, 18 flax.

The residents of the town are found as follows:

Section 2, s $\frac{1}{2}$  Allen Spink and John Olson.

Section 4, se C. Dean; sw W. F. Randall.

Section 6, ne P. Simenson; nw O. Kelson; sw A. G. Hangerud.

Section 14, ne W. H. Shafer; nw W. N. Olin; sw John Murphy.

Section 18, se E. K. Ronning; sp J. P. Myran.

Section 20, nw H. P. Sandeen; sw C. Peterson; ne Peter Anderson; se C. Johnson.

Section 22, nw P. C. McCann; sw P. McDonnell; e $\frac{1}{2}$  Ralph Hatton.

Section 24, sw E. F. Dickson; se C. Fellows.

Section 26, ne E. Peterson; se N. Hommoberg; sw S. Goseth; nw D. N. Aurandt.

Section 30, e $\frac{1}{2}$  H. Jorgerson; sw E. A. Blegen; nw M. L. Blegen.

Section 32, sw P. Ronning; se I. L. Blegen.

Section 34, ne P. McGinnis; se N. Lilaquist; sw J. Limblum.

## TOWN OF MONROE.

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Monroe is the southeast town of the county and is town 109, range 40.

The surface of the town is level prairie with nothing to obstruct the vision. There is scarcely any waste land, and the soil is of the best quality. In the assessor's report for 1883 the town is given 3,410 acres under cultivation, of which 1,105 were wheat, 946 oats, 780 corn, 310 barley, 43 potatoes, 218 flax.

In 1871 the first settlements were made by David Stafford, E. W. Healy, and George White. In 1872 J. L. Craig, Ole Rialson, E. L. Starr, Edward Glynn, and perhaps a few others came into the town. The town did not improve very rapidly for two or three years though the W. & St. P. R. R. was built through the town in 1872 and located a station near the east line, called Shetek Station, lake Shetek lying a few miles south in Murray Co. and the shipping of that settlement being then made here. The postoffice of Shetek Station was first in the township of Summit in Redwood Co. The station for a time appeared on the maps as Summit. The station was moved to section 23 in 1874, and that and the postoffice changed in name to Tracy in February 1877.

The first school in the town was taught by Stella Cleveland in the summer of 1875 in the Presbyterian church at Tracy. This church had been built that spring by a society organized by Rev. Ransom Waite who became pastor. The first religious organization in the town was a Congregational Sabbath school in 1874. Before the building of the Presbyterian church those of that persuasion had held services at the house of E. L. Starr, as far back as 1873 under direction of Rev. Waite.

## LYON COUNTY.

By an enactment of the town early in its history all the section lines are laid out for roads.

There are now two school buildings in the town outside of Tracy.

The first birth in town was a son of George White, June 17, 1872. He died Sept. 10, 1872, the first death.

The town was organized in Jan. 1873, the first election being at the store of H. N. Joy.

There are three lakes in the town, two of them being so near together, on section 19 and 30 that the name of Twin Lakes covers both. On section 31 is lake Sigel, which by pipes supplies the railroad water tank in Tracy. There is no natural timber in the town.<sup>1</sup>

Tracy will be treated of in another article.

Resident's houses in Monroe are located as follows.

Section 1, sw C. Reggle.

Section 2, sw E. Ladd.

Section 3, se J. Jones.

Section 4, ne Jessup & Walsh; sw C. W. VanDusen; nw W. Northrup.

Section 5, ne Jas. Thompson; sw J. W. Tyson.

Section 6, se P. Peregerine; sw B. R. Bass; nw E. W. Glynn and I. Grover.

Section 8, nw J. Glynn; sw F. Durst; ne J. P. Dayis; se Rees Davis.

Section 10, nw R. Lawrence and M Larson; sw G. Larson; ne E. Jones; se T. Larson.

Section 11, se Nevins Bros.

Section 12, ne J. R. Mullen; se J. B. Mullen.

Section 14, ne J. B. Deal; se J. L. Craig; nw J. C. Tweet; sw R. Cavanagh.

Section 15, sw N. H. Starr.

Section 17, se G. Mendikmg.

Section 18, se W. Moulton; sw H. Hughøs; nw R. Price.

Section 20, nw W. H. Morgan; sw O. Amundson; se O. Olsen.

Section 21, Chas. C. Warren.

Section 22, nw A. Ellinson; sw L. Rialson; ne S. D. Peterson and T. Lewis; se Ole Rialson.

Section 23, village of Tracy.

Section 24, nw W. S. Moses; sw W. Henning; ne J. Moline; se J. S. Wilmarth.

Section 25, nw H. H. Titus.

Section 26, ne L. Montgomery; nw O. Johnson.

Section 27, J. J. Randall.

Section 28, ne C. Crirstianson; se Ole Anderson; nw Ole Helgerson; sw A Christianson.

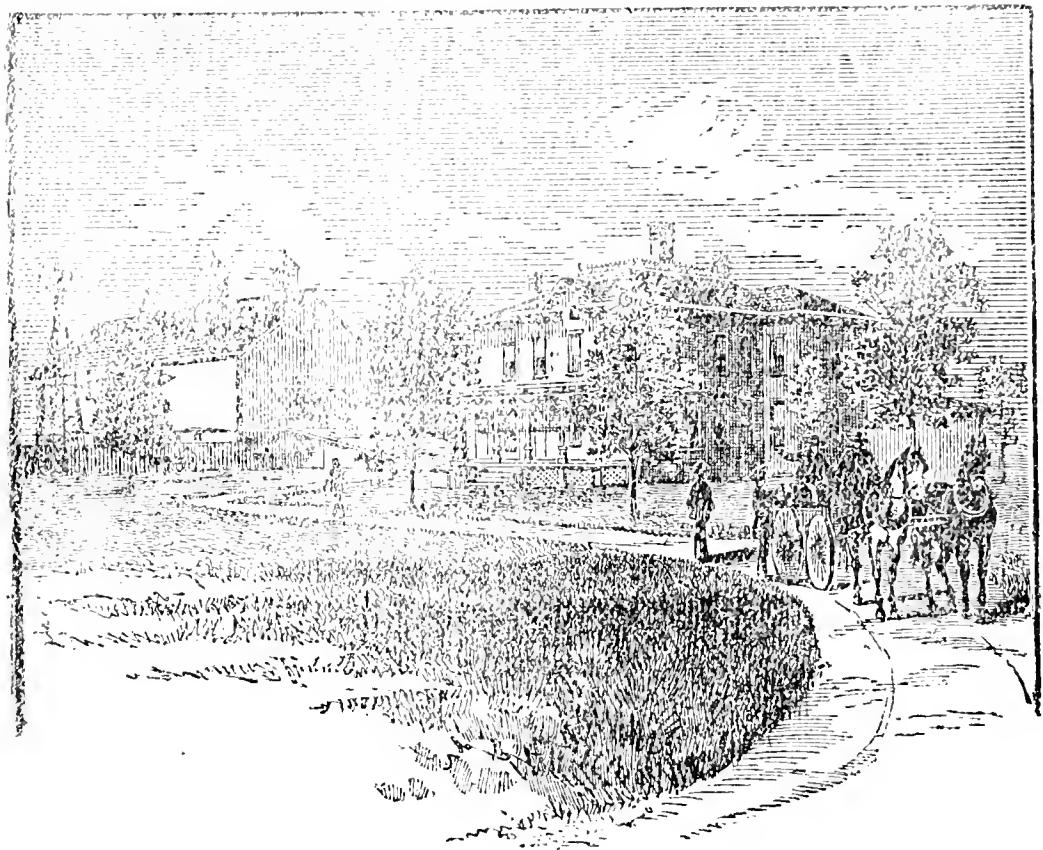
Section 29, no Mrs. R. Sessions.

Section 30, nw E. D. Evans; sw G. O. Miller.

Section 32, nw A. Amundson; sw H. Amundson; se J. Jacobson.

Section 34, nw H. Moline; sw E. Anderson.

Section 36, ne J. Retz; nw Schmitz.



YOUNMANS FARM, NEAR MARSHALL.

# HUMPHREY & GAIL,



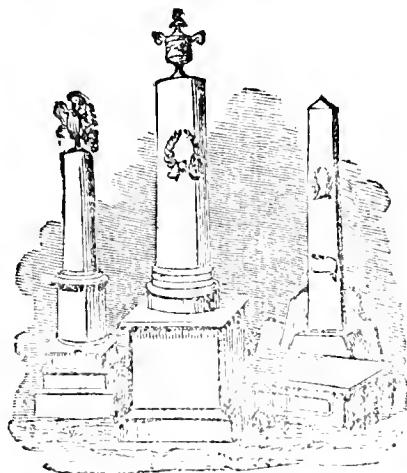
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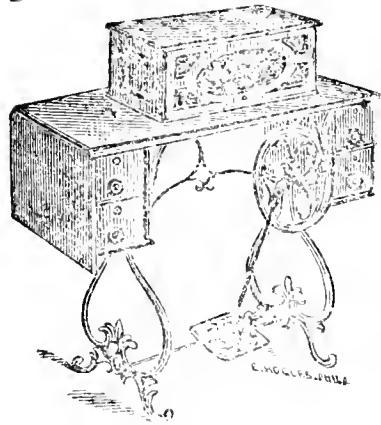
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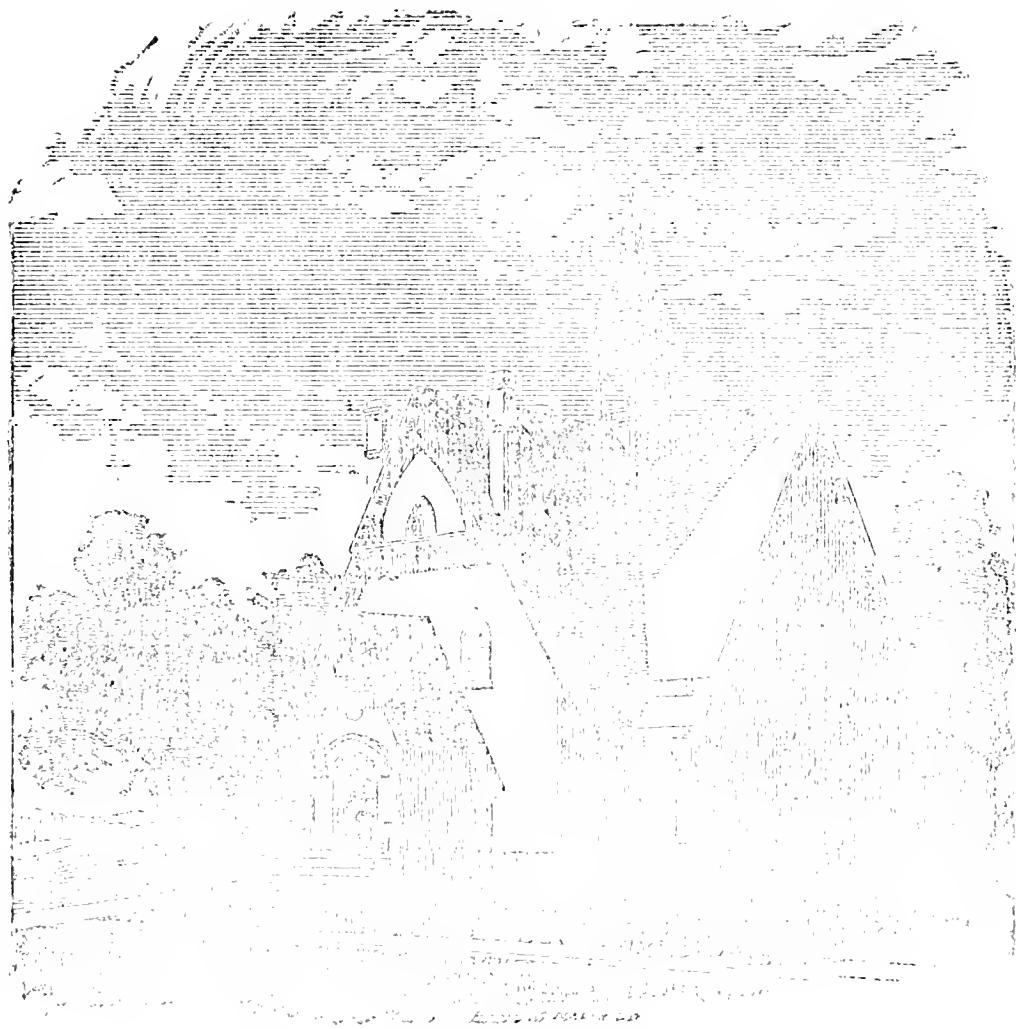
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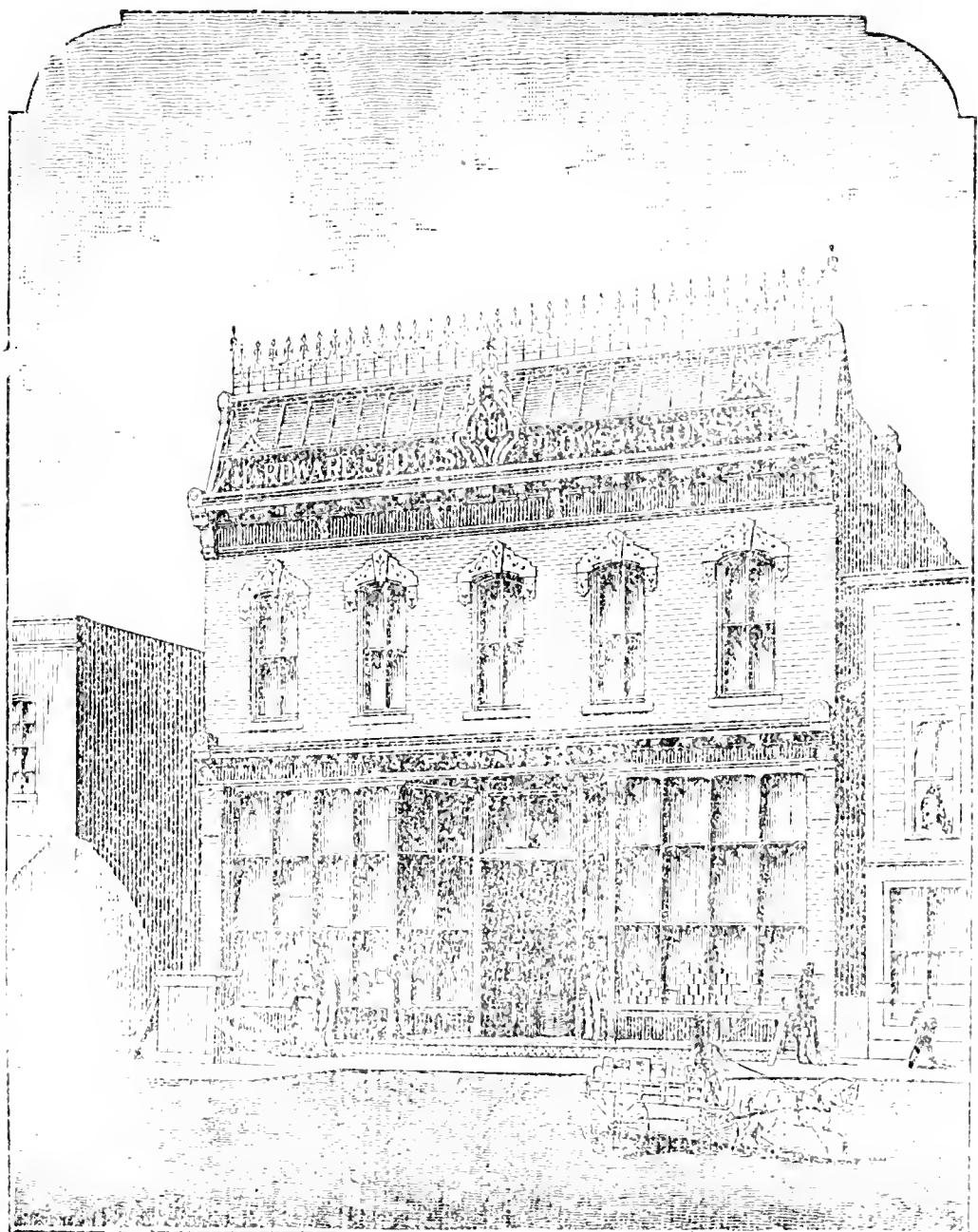
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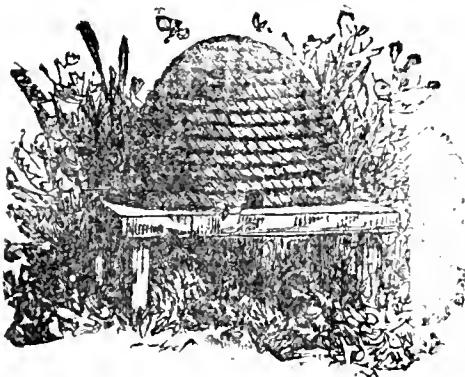
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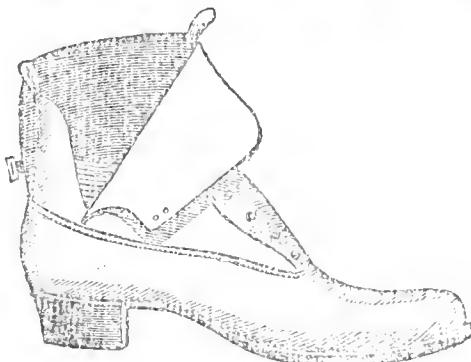


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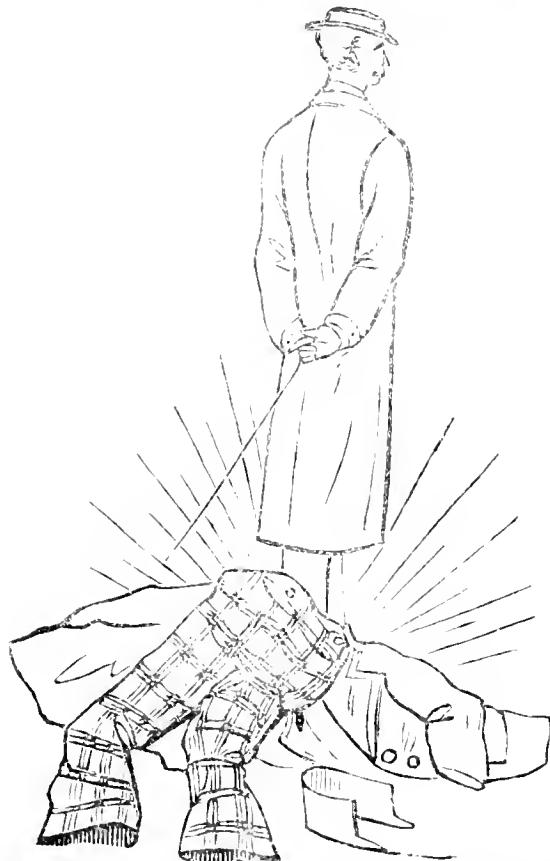
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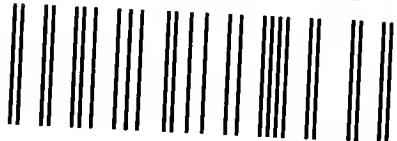




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